

The oldest architectural remains of Mexico and Central America, cannot claim a date anterior to the Toltecs, or about the seventh century. Those of Peru are evidently of more recent date. The earth works of the United States, would hardly bear the frosts and storms of a thousand years, without becoming quite obliterated; and those who have observed the process of prairie making, will not believe it could have required more than one or two thousand years to bring the largest of them to their present stage of progress.*

2d. While all the facts of Indian history, with rare exceptions, point to a *general* Asiatic origin, they as plainly indicate a diversity of *specific* origin, that the germs of various tribes appeared at different points on the north-west coast, at periods more or less remote from each other, and under different circumstances and with different degrees of civilization. Their division into a multitude of distinct tribes, with different, tho' kindred languages, and the constant shingling of one race upon another and the consequent heterogeneous nature of the laws and institutions observed among the Mexicans and Peruvians, all indicate this diversity of origin, both as to time and place.

* Some men of high reputation in natural science, have made much ado about an Indian skull, said to have been found on the Delta, below New Orleans, sixteen feet below the surface. The story is, that in that locality there were discovered several successive formations of earth, alternating with the remains of as many cypress swamps, and that the skull was found under one of the cypress stumps belonging to the lowest and primitive swamp; and from a computation of the time required for these successive formations, they confidently assert that the skull could not have been less than 50,000 years old, and hence that America must have been inhabited by man, at least that length of time.

But unfortunately for the conclusion, the same reasoning which proves the skull to have been 50,000 years old, proves that the stumps in the same formation must have been about the same age! Poor *Nitchee* must have found a grave in a "*hard row of stumps*" that in such a situation could have retained their organic form for 50,000 years. Surely, after finding timber of such astonishing durability, we should not despair of some day finding Noah's Ark, all sound and seaworthy and ready for the next flood. And a human skull so thick and so hard as to be able, in moist earth, to resist the gnawings of time for 50,000 years, one would suppose could not have belonged to the Indian race at all, but must have been worn by a genuine son of Africa. But this is only one of many proofs we have that men of science are not always logicians. Soon after this wonderful discovery of an ante-Adamic skull, the City of Pompeii was discovered still deeper in the ground! The locality of that city is subject to sudden changes from one cause, and the Delta of the Mississippi to rapid changes from another equally potent.