

3d. Everything indicates that their origin upon the continent was the result, not of *design*, but of *accident*. Had they migrated by design, direct from the old continent, it would have been by some route and by some means by which some of them could and would have returned and informed the world of their discoveries. If we take it for granted that their migration was voluntary and direct from the civilized regions of the Old World, the conclusions which Mr. Schoolcraft draws from the silence of history concerning it, will appear more natural; but are there no conceivable means by which they may have reached the continent, and all the rest of the world remained ignorant of the fact? We might affirm concerning the fate of the lost steamship *President*, that "Herodotus is silent; there is nothing to be learned from Sanconiathus and the fragmentary ancients." But obviously, *antiquity* is not the qualification necessary to give the required information, but *knowledge of the fact*. Were half the world still unexplored, the passengers and crew of the *President* might now be forming a community in an unknown land, and all that history could transmit to future generations concerning them would be, that at such a time a certain vessel left port and was never heard of afterwards; and the knowledge, even of this fact, would very soon be lost entirely.

Now this was the very condition of the world previous to the discovery of America by Europeans. Here was a vast continent, stretching north and south, almost from pole to pole, and unknown to the civilized world. Facing its western shores was another vast continent, which had been teeming with population for some thousands of years. There is, perhaps, no one error into which we are more prone to fall, than underrating the knowledge of the ancients. Some of the Asiatic nations have possessed a knowledge of naval architecture and navigation, from a very early date. Noah's ark was a very respectable craft, both as to size and model. As early as the days of Solomon, the Tyrians fitted out ships for three years voyages. The Chinese had the magnetic needle long before it was known to Europeans, and it is very doubtful whether they have made