

gation, to Mexico, and left their impress upon Mexican institutions.*

From this view of the great outlines and principal facts of Indian history, and their exact correspondence with what we should philosophically expect from the relative position of the American continent to the rest of the world, the course of the winds and ocean currents, the Islands in the Pacific and the absence of such resting places in the Atlantic, we may be justified in drawing the following final conclusions:

* Major Stoddard, in his history of Louisiana, has a curious chapter on a certain tribe of Indians which once inhabited Florida or the Carolinas, supposed by some to have been of Welsh origin.

The evidences in favor of the existence of a Welsh tribe of Indians near the Atlantic coast and of their subsequent migrations westward, is derived partly from a scrap of Welsh history, and partly from the testimony of early travelers among the Indian tribes of the South-West.

The history is, that in 1170 a Welsh prince named Madoc, on account of civil discords in his own country, fitted out a small fleet and sought adventures by sea—that he discovered unknown lands; returned, fitted out a larger fleet and sailed with a colony of his country people for the newly discovered country, and never returned. Whether this prince Madoc actually reached the New World, or some other country, the early historians could have had no means of judging, except from the account of Madoc who reported having sailed westward, leaving Ireland far to the North.

The evidence of the actual existence of Indians who spoke the Welsh language, is derived from various sources. It is said that one Morgan Jones, a Welsh preacher, in 1660, fell in with the Tuscarora, then in Virginia, and found they spoke the Welsh language; that he preached to them three times a week for four months and could confer with them on the most difficult subjects. The testimony of several travellers of later periods is adduced, claiming that they had been among Indians who spoke Welsh, and that they had saved their lives by being able to speak the same language.

All these stories lack, more or less, the marks of credibility. The story of the voyages of Madoc is not only inconclusive as to the country to which he migrated, but in some respects inconsistent with itself. The account given by Mr. Jones supposes that a colony of people, reduced to a savage state, would retain their original language for five hundred years in such purity that an individual from the parent country would understand them perfectly—a thing quite incredible. The later stories of travellers are still more deficient in the elements of credibility. They were received second or third handed, mostly from incompetent persons, and the savage Welshmen were always located far away in the interior. Moreover, if a Welsh nation of Indians existed anywhere in the United States within the last hundred years and had preserved their language in such purity as is represented, for a period of six hundred years, it is incredible that all traces of them should have disappeared upon a more general and thorough acquaintance with the tribes of North America.

It is barely possible that such a migration from Wales to this continent took place and that they contributed to the traces of Europeans found among the Indians. The traces of Europeans were, however, all found in Mexico, and there is the great ocean current, and the trade winds all in the same direction, sweeping across the Atlantic and around the Gulf of Mexico to the very shores of the Isthmus, and European castaways falling into these currents would be landed in the very regions where the only decisive traces of them have ever been found.