

are of Arabian descent, and there is besides a large portion of Jewish ancestry.

The language has been the Arabian from the time the followers of Mohammed entered the country, about 1,800 years ago. None of the ancient languages survive as a spoken tongue.

The Turkish government, the lecturer says, is very oppressive, but as the people are too weak to resist, the oppression continues. According to Mr. Skebadi's representations of the condition, both Christians and Mohammedans feel the heavy hand of their conquerors. About thirty years ago they agreed to unite in an effort to gain their independence, and the Bedouins of the desert promised to furnish 10,000 horses to the conspirators. But the plan was betrayed to the government before it had matured, and the result was that everyone known to have taken part in the plot was seized and executed.

The estimated population of Syria is about 1,000,000 souls. This fact itself is a severe criticism on the present government methods. Palestine, which is but a small part of the present Syria, at the time of its golden age had a population of probably 5,000,000 souls, and there is no conceivable reason why the whole Syria today should not sustain many times that number.

The Syrians, like the Armenians, it appears, hope for the intervention in their behalf of the Christian powers of Europe. The trouble, however, is that the European countries no longer go to the terrible expense of war for the sake of a mere principle. Still, it is believed on all hands, that those historical countries have a bright future before them, and that their liberation will be brought about when the time is ripe for the change the Christian population so much desires.

MIGHTY MEN OF OLD.

A Washington dispatch to a San Francisco paper contains a description of an interesting relic of antiquity, in the shape of a human body found

near San Diego, Cal., by a party of prospectors. It is in an excellent state of preservation and has been carefully examined by Professor Thomas Wilson, curator of the department of prehistoric anthropology in the Smithsonian Institution, as well as by other scientists. The length of the corpse from the top of the head to the heel is eight feet and four inches, but as the spine has shrunk considerably on account of the drying of the cartilage between the vertebrae, the supposition is that in life this human being must have been about nine feet in height. That this giant lived in California in a remote age is almost certain, but how far back is only a matter of conjecture.

Lately, several discoveries have been announced, which, if they could be substantiated, would seem to indicate that the American west coast once was the home of a race abnormally large. One of these discoveries in the West is said to have been made in the Colorado canyon, where the fossil remains of a man, twelve feet high, were found. The traditions of some Indian tribes also point in the same direction. The Apaches, we are told, claim that when their ancestors first came to the country they inhabit, they encountered giants whom they conquered. The Maricopa tradition is evidently fictitious, like the sagas of the old Norsemen, but there may nevertheless be some historical basis for the traditional superstructure. The story has it that in the remote past, a Maricopa chief strayed into the mountains and was pursued by a giant. The chief took refuge into a canyon so narrow that the pursuer was unable to enter. Finally the giant put his eye to the opening when the chief let fly an arrow which penetrated into the monster's brain, disposing of him.

In modern times abnormally large men have been exhibited, but they seldom reach a height of eight feet. There is a notable difference, however, between modern "giantism" and that of all ancient tradition. The former is proved to be a sickness, a nervous complaint, caused by the abnormal enlarge-

ment of a gland situated at the base of the brain, while the latter is represented as a normal condition. The occasional giants known to modern times are physically weak and generally but little developed mentally; they often die young. The giants of tradition are strong, bold and fierce. In this the mythologies of all nations agree, and seem to point to some common source of information, the details of which were transmitted through the various branches of the human family and embellished in various ways in the process of transmission.

The Hebrew sacred records contain the earliest historical allusion to a race of giants on the earth, and offer an explanation of their origin. The author of Genesis, chap. 6, states that they existed at the remote time of which the first part of that chapter is a brief history. At the time immediately preceding the flood, they were "mighty men which were of old, men of renown," and they are evidently alluded to as the principal cause of that depravity which ended in the disastrous deluge. It is of interest to reflect on this brief Biblical allusion, in connection with other traditions about giants, particularly at a time when reports of discovered ancient remains of veritable Goliaths on this continent are becoming numerous.

THE CHICAGO epidemic of typhoid is traced by one authority to impure water, and by another to impure milk. Both are probably right, and the contents of the milk can may be cited in evidence by either.

ELSEWHERE IN this issue will be found the libretto for a cantata on the subject of "The Utah Pioneers"—the proposition being to set the piece to music sometime in the future to be used on Pioneer anniversaries. For the best in this line of competition, the Cambrian association offered a prize of \$25. The winning production we publish, and commend it to the readers of the NEWS everywhere. It is from the pen of Utah's gifted son of song, Evan Stephens.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

APPOINTMENTS UNTIL APRIL, 1896.

1895.	DAYS.	1896.	STAKES.
October 19 and 20 (Saturday and Sunday)	January 18 and 19	Utah	
October 20 and 21 (Sunday and Monday)	January 19 and 20	Weber	
October 27 and 28 (Sunday and Monday)	January 26 and 27	Box Elder, Oneida and Tooele	
November 2 and 3 (Saturday and Sunday)	February 1 and 2	Juab and Wasatch	
November 3 and 4 (Sunday and Monday)	February 2 and 3	Cache	
November 9 and 10 (Saturday and Sunday)	February 8 and 9	Bear Lake and Summit	
November 10 and 11 (Sunday and Monday)	February 9 and 10	Emery and Uintah	
November 16 and 17 (Saturday and Sunday)	February 15 and 16	Sanpete and Star Valley	
November 17 and 18 (Sunday and Monday)	February 16 and 17	San Luis and Morgan	
November 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday)	February 22 and 23	San Juan, Sevier and Mexico	
November 24 and 25 (Sunday and Monday)	February 23 and 24	Millard and Carbon	
December 1 and 2 (Sunday and Monday)	March 1 and 2	Panguitch, Wayne and Snowflake	
December 7 and 8 (Saturday and Sunday)	March 7 and 8	Davis, Kays and Bannock	
December 8 and 9 (Sunday and Monday)	March 8 and 9	St. John	
December 14 and 15 (Saturday and Sunday)	March 14 and 15	Bingham	
December 15 and 16 (Sunday and Monday)	March 15 and 16	St. George, Malad and St. Joseph	
December 22 and 23 (Sunday and Monday)	March 22 and 23	Cassia, Parowan and Maricopa	
December 28 and 29 (Saturday and Sunday)	March 21 and 22	Beaver	

F. D. RICHARDS.
JOSEPH F. SMITH.