

The bulk of the community here have shown marked ability to conduct business upon co-operative principles. Is there any valid reason why such a system should not enter into household concerns, upon which human happiness so much depends? The wear and tear and perplexities involved in household affairs are a constant affliction upon housewives, in many instances telling powerfully upon their health. How delightful it would be to have some plan operated that would relieve them from the annoyance, the trouble and smoke of the culinary department! It would conduce to health, good temper and happiness. The great difficulty to be encountered here in establishing a co-operative concern of the kind defined is the fact that residences are not built house to house, but usually at magnificent distances from each other.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION IN AMERICA

THE *Christian at Work* has an article on the above named subject which will be of interest to a large number of our readers, who have paid considerable attention to the discoveries, in modern times, of the relics of nations that have existed on this continent and have passed away, or whose remnants are to be found in the present savage tribes that roam the wilderness, or dwell in caves, or are grouped in the pueblos to be seen in various parts of the West, or are mingled, as in Mexico, with other races. We therefore copy the article as follows:

"The report of the explorers searching for Mexican antiquities in the State of Chiapas, opens up a chapter as interesting and fascinating as any rolled off the pen of the late E. G. Squier. According to the report in question, a brief synopsis only of which is made public, the claim for an earlier advanced civilization in America is every way confirmed. Among other things we are told that a fine, broad-paved road, built by prehistoric inhabitants, has been traced from Tonalá down into Guatemala and thence in a curve up again into Mexico, terminating at Palenque. All along this road are still to be seen the remains of ruined cities, and a careful estimate of the population of these places is about thirty millions. On that part of the road near Palenque, the ruins are of great magnitude. Houses four and often five stories high have been found in the depth of the forest. Many of these houses are pyramidal in form, and so covered are some of them with vegetable mould that large trees are growing from the roots. In some of the houses great employment has been made of stone beams of tre-

mendous weight, and the architecture indicates a high degree of scientific attainments. In some houses visited, bronze lamps have been discovered, and the interior and exterior mural decorations of the more important houses consist of panellings filled with elaborately carved figures almost life-size, two types of men and women being plainly represented, some plainly Egyptian and others genuine Africans. In front of one of the houses the explorers found 15 sculptures of gods with folded arms. The work of exploration was one of extreme difficulty, owing to the density of the forest and the unwillingness of the Indians to enter the ancient edifices, they averring that the buildings were inhabited by spirits. Another discovery was that an enormous paved road extends from Palenque across Yucatan to the island of Cozumel, and is continued on the island. Palenque explorers assert that they have discovered in the edifices before mentioned examples of a perfect arch. One explorer is a scientifically trained man from India, and by his account the region from Chiapas to Yucatan must have been the seat of a densely populous nation. The publication in full of this report will be awaited with deep interest. America has not been explored to the extent that could have been desired, and yet the names of Lewis and Clark, Squier, Valentini, Roque, Baldwin, Jackson, Short, Bartlett, Morton, and others, are well known in this department of archaeological research. Whether or not the North American continent is the older sociologically as well as geologically as has been claimed, it is certain a high civilization has gone down before the resistless march of time. The fittest in this instance—and in many others—has certainly not survived. It will be a good work accomplished when the explorer shall open up to us ruins which still elude the eye of men, and they shall be permitted to tell their Iliad of times long past and a civilization which may not suffer from comparison with those of the Nile valley or the Euphrates.

The Iliad which the uncovered ruins of this continent will tell will be necessarily incomplete. The rocks and inscriptions, the evidences of the presence of civilized man in early times, and the proofs that the older nations were overpowered by less enlightened but more savage foes, will all combine to prove the fact of that ancient civilization in America which so many travelers, explorers and philosophers unite in declaring. But the history of that extinct people, their origin and the causes that led to their obliteration from the earth, must ever remain but fragmentary, unsatisfactory and speculative unless some more definite means of information can be obtained. We have pleasure in the knowledge

that this much needed information is at hand. But it comes in such a shape and from such sources that the wise after this world reject it almost without investigation. It claims to have been revealed by Divine power. That settles it with the majority in this age of skepticism. It is not in their view worthy of a thought. And yet to those who receive it as it comes, it affords a complete elucidation of the mystery that hangs over this western world, and supplies the want that is felt by all students of this important subject.

The Book of Mormon gives full and consistent data concerning the settlement of this land by people from the eastern continent, describes their manners, customs, architecture, religion and government. It relates their wars and the cause thereof, their migrations, divisions, places of habitation, the natural and other disturbances that changed the face of the country, and gives particulars of the downfall of the civilized nations and the causes which led to the predominance of the progenitors of the present tribes of savages.

If it were not so much mingled with religious doctrine and sentiment, it could not fail to interest the student of American archaeology. But this is the stumbling block in the way of the worldling and the barrier to his information on the subject that occasions so much inquiry. And yet the religious portion is an essential part of the work and cannot be eliminated. It supplies the *motif* for the whole literary production, and must be read with the rest in order to comprehend any part of it.

All the discoveries that have been made, of the character described in the article we have reproduced, serve to corroborate the testimonies in the Book of Mormon, and it is really remarkable that the learned of the age have not carefully examined it and made critical comparison. But the word of the Lord is fulfilled concerning its coming forth, for He said: "The wisdom of their wise men shall perish and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

THE explanation of Queen Victoria's apparently inexhaustible supply of Indian shawls, one of which is her regular wedding present, is that early in her Majesty's reign one of the Indian princes, in consideration of his having a large and valuable territory ceded to him, bound himself to pay an annual tribute, which included three pairs of the finest Cashmere shawls and twelve perfect shawl goats.