

and the lofty chains of the Andes intervening, appears to be the chief reason that this celebrated city is so little known to our countrymen. It abounds in stupendous monuments of art, attesting a civilization quite equal, if not superior, to that of the Aztecs. But amid these remains of ancient days there exists a living relic of the past, some short notice of whom may throw light on the inclosed letter.

The venerable Dr. Don Justo Sahaurauria, a canon of the Cathedral of Cuzco, and now more than ninety years of age, claims to be a lineal descendant in the seventh degree from Haana Caipac, the last reigning Inca and father of the ill-fated Atahualpa, burnt alive by the conquerors in the plaza of Caxamarca. The evidence of his claim appears to me to be conclusive; so that in this man we see the last of the royal race of Incas, as no others of unmixed blood are known to exist. He is a man of learning, and quite distinguished in the history of his country, having personally received the thanks of Bolivar at the close of the war of independence, for his services in the cause of liberty. A clerical friend took me to the old man's house. We found him reading Tasso in his garden, a secluded spot just under the walls of the great temple of the Sun, where his ancestors, as high priests of the Sun, and hereditary lords of Peru, once officiated at the altar, in the grand and imposing worship of "the Children of the Sun."

He received us very affably, and showed me many matters of interest about his house. He conversed more intelligently than is usual with Peruvians of the interior, concerning "El grande Republica del Norte," as they call the United States, and appeared much interested in the slight sketch of our political system, which he requested me to give him. He had many questions to ask—who was President, and who would be the next President? He is a fine looking man, with a physiognomy quite different from that of the Quicha Indians, (the race peopling this part of Peru,) having a high forehead, large, regular features, and an intelligent eye. A paralytic stroke, about two years ago, deprived him of the power of writing, except early in the morning, when he can sign his name. His son acts as his amanuensis. He always affixes the word Inca to his name. The seal of the enclosed letter bears the arms granted by Charles V. to his family in 1544; the original letters patent are carefully preserved in his library.

I left Cuzco in June last. Some time afterward, I received a letter from him, in which he asked a continuance of the correspondence, which I provided for through the United States Consul at Lima, although scarcely expecting to hear from the aged In-

ca again. On parting from him, he had desired me to present his compliments, &c., &c., to the President of the United States on my return home. This he repeated, with the usual addition of Spanish courtesy, in the letter I received from him at Lima. After my return to the United States, I received a package of letters from the venerable Dr. S., dated Cuzco, August 16, in which he desires me to deliver the enclosed letter: "Y significar a ese grand hombre mis rendimientos."—I should be pleased to receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of this; as I shall write to Cuzco in a few days, and wish to assure the old gentleman that his letter has reached its destination.

Trusting that the subject of this letter will be found of sufficient interest to atone for its length, I remain Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

SAMUEL G. ARNOLD.

Gen Z. TAYLOR, President of the U. S.

[TRANSLATION.]

"To the most Excellent President of the United States of North America; from the Capital of the Sovereign Incas of Cuzco, the 16th of August, 1848.

*The Possessor of my Profoundest Respect and Veneration:*

"A Peruvian Prince, the seventh in descent from the Emperor Huaynacpac, the most immediate branch of the sovereign Incas, places himself under the protection and auspices of your Excellency, entreating that you will have the goodness to receive his homage.

"When the Spaniards entered the Peruvian Empire, giving the name of conquest to a sanguinary devastation, they found in the principal temple of Cuzco various prophecies, and among them one that foretold the destruction of the Empire, together with its rites and ceremonies; and that this was to take place in the reign of the twelfth Emperor.

"When the Emperor Huaynacpac was told by his vassals in Tumpis, that there had appeared on the coast certain canoe-like houses, the crews of which were composed of bearded men very different from themselves, he said that a tradition existed among the members of the royal family, to the effect that there should come from beyond the sea an unknown people, who would destroy the Empire, its religion, rites and ceremonies. This, he said furthermore, was to take place during the reign of the twelfth Emperor; and as he was the twelfth in succession, the prediction was doubtless about to be fulfilled, even as it is said in the prophecy, 'inter alia vaticinia, quae de amissione, Regni loquuntur.'

"Moreover, the prediction inspired the Children of the Sun with the hope that the day would arrive in which they should be re-instated in their ancient splendor, by the aid of a people from a country called England; and in order that your Excellency may be fully possessed of the whole prophecy, I here transcribe it as follows:

"Et Deum ego testor, mihi a D. Antonio de Berreo affirmatum, quemadmodum etiam ab aliis cognovi, quod in praecipuo ipsorum Templo inter alia vaticinia, quae de amissione Regni loquuntur, hoc enim sit, quo dicitur fore, ut Incæ, sive Imperatores et Reges Peruviae, ab aliquo Populo, qui ex Regione quadam, quo (quae) Inglaterra vocetur, in Regnum suum rursus introducantur."

"As the prophecy does not expressly say whether they are to be Anglo-Europeans or Anglo-Americans, it appears to me that the Children of the Sun ought to follow their own inclinations. I, like others, am well convinced, and constantly hear of the great kindness with which all who are inclined to the grand Republic of North America have been welcomed by it. On these accounts, and because of the preference which I personally entertain, I place myself under the protection and shelter of the Republic, and under that of your Excellency, who will not disdain to receive an unfortunate Prince like myself.

"Praying the Almighty to preserve the health of your Excellency, during all the years that America may require it, and especially the humble priest who kisses the hands of your Excellency.

"I am, most excellent sir,

"DR JUSTO SAHAURAUIRA. INCA."

"I call God to witness, that I was informed by Don Antonio de Berreo, even as I had learned from others, that among the prophecies preserved in the principal temple which speak of the loss of the Kingdom, there is one which says that the Incas or Emperors and Kings of Peru shall be restored to their Kingdom by a people who shall come from a certain country called INGLATERRA (England.)

RENTS IN CALIFORNIA.—A wag said, in our hearing the other day, that it costs a man fifty dollars to look at a house in California, including the sublime privilege of sleeping out of doors.

Thanks to Dr. Bernhisel, and Hon. Mr. Thompson, for Washington papers by last mail.