

relationship between their language and that of any known Asiatic nation, appears to me a baseless hypothesis, however true it may be that the aboriginal Americans had in the course of ages derived some hints from foreign sources. They could only have taken advantage of such aid, conjectural as it is, and without proof, if they were already in a highly progressive state; and if such assistance be deemed sufficient to invalidate their title to an independent civilisation, no race of mankind can ever make good their claim to such an honor.

If, then, a large continent can be inhabited by hundreds of tribes, all belonging to the same race, and nearly all remaining for centuries in a state of apparently hopeless barbarism, while two or three of them make a start in their social condition, and in the arts and sciences; if these same nations, when brought into contact with Europeans, relapse and retrograde until they are scarcely distinguishable in intellectual rank from the rude hunter tribes descended from a common stock; what caution ought we not to observe when speculating on the inherent capacities of any other great member of the human family? The negro, for example, may have remained stationary in all hitherto explored parts of the African continent, and may even have become more barbarous when brought within the influence of the white man, and yet may possess within his bosom the germ of a civilisation as active and refined as that of the golden age of Tezcuco.

In proportion as the Ohio falls gradually in level after its inundations, it leaves a great succession of steps cut in its mud banks, each from four to ten