

AMERICAN INDIANS.

The Who, What and Whence of the Pre-Columbian Dwellers, or the Misnamed Peoples, Indians, of Lancaster County.

The treatment of a pre-historic subject which seemingly is wrapped in such impenetrable mystery and veiled in the blackest night of obscurity may possibly be regarded as both vain and presumptuous, more especially since the writer has no status in which is termed the scientific world. Notwithstanding, I beg to remark "that a rustic often stumbles upon rare game," and "that wisdom is not always found with the would-be wise." Hence a layman may come into possession of matter and facts that dumfound and amaze the savant. Any facts, or, in the absence of these, even a specious hypothesis that would tend to throw a ray of light on a subject of such great moment as the one in question, should be of more than passing interest to every Pennsylvanian. But, strange to say, little interest is manifested by the masses, and their origin and antiquities are with indifference overlooked or wholly ignored. The modern scholar does not consider his education complete unless he has paid homage at the ruined piles of monumental art of the Orient, to which history has introduced him. Is it owing to the absence of history that he turned his back on the ruined piles of art of his own continent, or simply that it is the fashion of the day? Obviously, he was not seeking the unknown and marvelous. If such had been his object and ambition a trans-Atlantic voyage was un-

necessary, as problems could be found lying at his own door as yet unfolded or solved which are of greater moment and more marvelous than any yet found on God's footstool.

But, if you please, we will now consider the who and what of the primitive people of our county. I shall make no attempt to deal with each distinct tribe, for the latter, like families, sprung from one fountain-head. The science of ethnology furnishes us with very meagre information; simply the color of the skin and hair, stature and mode of living. Failing, however, to associate them with any of the races of the Eastern continent, hence the claim which has been promulgated, and which is both untenable and devoid of consideration—namely, the Autochthonic theory, or people who were indigenous to the land which Columbus discovered. The most popular theory is that they were of Jewish origin. In fact, the claim that they were the posterity of the ten lost tribes has met with considerable favor. The erudite and illustrious Lord Kingsborough spent a fortune and ruined his health in the hopeless attempt to prove them to be Jews. Even William Penn was impressed with the close resemblance they bore to the Jews of England. Seemingly we are without guide post or compass in a midocean of uncertainty. Scientists have used the following keys with the hope of solving this Jewish problem, namely: Ethnology, archaeology, philology and craniology, and the unsatisfactory unlocking is very apparent in the want of harmony on the part of these mighty thinkers. However, they failed to consider Bibliology and the poetry of religion, or what is commonly termed mythology. These are the keys of which I shall avail myself. Before proceeding further with their "who and what" it becomes necessary to first trace their "whence," or original location, on this "Island," as the

Western continent was denominated by them. And, further, I desire to emphasize the fact that America was so regarded by the primitive peoples of both continents. The following prediction I offer in confirmation of this, which was current with the people under consideration: "When the whites shall have ceased killing the red men and got all their lands from them the great tortoise which bears this 'Island' upon his back shall dive down into the deep and drown them all, as he did before, a great many years ago, etc." It must be apparent where I fain would lead you, in calling such special attention to this continent being regarded as an island. Yes, I not only advocate the Platonic theory of the island of Atlantis, but claim that it had a veritable existence. However, I do not concede it was wholly destroyed—a matter that will be subsequently considered. I learn from the pages of profane history of three separate and distinct expeditions to what is still a terra incognita to modern savants. While Biblical history informs us of the commercial relations existing between King Solomon and a land called by them Ophir, the latter, strange to say, has become the philosopher's stone of geographers. They have searched the Orient with a view of finding an available quarter in which to locate it, but at each move confusion becomes worse confounded, and in hopeless despair they leave it to be located anywhere, except, of course, on the Western continent.

The Jews were not a maritime people, hence the Tyrians, sailors, were enlisted to construct ships on the shores of the Red Sea and sail—where? To Tarshish, or the West, in which the land of Ophir was situated. Obviously, if this land could have been reached other than by vessels it would not have been necessary to incur the expense of a navy or the use of ships, as

the ship of the desert would have subserved the purpose. Then, too, consider the length of time consumed in making the voyage, namely, three years. These expeditions were of a purely specific character. Miners and those skilled in warfare were unnecessary; barter was the ostensible object of these voyages. If you please, consider the products procurable in this wonderful land—gold, silver, ivory, peacocks, apes and rare and beautiful wood, such as was not indigenous to the Orient. En passant, we are all familiar with the fact that the beautiful wood known as mahogany is only to be found in Yucatan and Central America. Here, too, the ornithologist informs us is found that rare and magnificent bird which in plumage corresponds with its India counterpart, and which so delighted the epicurean taste of King Solomon—the *Meleagris Ocellata*—better known as the Ocellated turkey, and which the Septuagint translated peacock. The other products, none can gainsay, teemed in abundance on the Western continent.

The question which now demands our attention is one that, I greatly regret, the limited space assigned for its treatment renders it impossible to produce the voluminous evidence in my possession relative to the who and what of the peoples of Ophir, with whom King Solomon was engaged in such extensive commercial relation. But let us consult the sacred page from which we shall procure such evidence whereby we will be enabled to remove the veil that has so completely enshrouded the origin of the race which emigrated to the Occident and dwelt in that mysterious land, Ophir, usurping the temples, palaces, homes and lands of a people who were the first to emigrate to that Atlantean abode which furnished the nectar and ambrosia for the gods. I now beg to quote Genesis 25: 21, 23—“And Isaac

entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren, and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah, his wife, conceived. And the Lord said unto her, two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels, and the one people shall be stronger than the other people, and the elder shall serve the younger."

From the quotation and subsequent information relative to the birth of these twins, it becomes apparent that they differed in a very marked degree. We would naturally suppose that the physiognomy, a characteristic generally possessed by twins, must have been pronounced and conspicuous. Commentators, theologians, and, in fact, all who have bestowed any thought upon that occult and mysterious language, namely, "Jacob took hold of Esau's heel," have sought in vain for its significance. We must concede, if there was no importance to be attached to it, no reference would have been made to an act so insignificant. In brief, the posterity of Esau was marked by a peculiar anatomical characteristic, namely that of having their toes inverted, or what is familiarly known as pigeon-toed. This peculiar feature was of important service to them, for by it they were enabled to determine if the tread or foot-print was that of a friend or foe. As to the elder being subservient and dispossessed of his birth-right, we recognize the fulfillment. We are also made acquainted with another very important transaction; that of robbing the elder, or Esau, of his father's blessing. But let us consider the result of this latter act on the part of Jacob. "And Isaac answered and said unto Esau: Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I

sustained him and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me, also, O! my father. And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. And Isaac, his father, answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dews of Heaven from above. And by the sword shalt thou live and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck."

It would be most incongruous and devoid of common sense reasoning to claim that Isaac had any reference whatever to a geographical location on the Eastern Continent as the dwelling of Esau's posterity. Mount Seir was the heritage of Esau; he came into peaceable possession of it. But the land that contained the fatness of the earth it was necessary to subjugate, to dispossess a people who were then in possession; hence the language, "By the sword shalt thou live." Petra, the rock-hewn city, was the stronghold of the Edomite nation. Reference is frequently made to their erudition and wisdom, and it has been conclusively proven they were a maritime people, possessing the two great and important seaports, Eloth and Ezion-geber. In the centre of this impregnable city stood—and which is still grand in its ruin—a treasury. The question naturally suggests itself, whence the wealth of the Edomites? It is not supposable they extracted it from the bleak and variegated sandstones of Mount Seir. Their environments would imply poverty, notwithstanding they were the possessors of fabulous wealth, and the coffers of their treasury overflowed with the precious metals. In the language of Job, they "laid up the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks." Their wealth

made them proud, arrogant and ambitious for the acquisition of more power and land in the Orient. This is apparent from the prophetic language, (see Jeremiah 49: 16), "Thy terrible-ness hath deceived thee and the pride of thine heart." That the gigantic scheme was contemplated by them of becoming the rulers of both continents is obvious from the following quotation (Ezekiel 35:10): "Because thou hast said these two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the Lord was there." Again, the prophet Jeremiah (49: 9), with a view of rebuking them for their avarice and discontent, conclusively demonstrates they were in the acme of their greatness. He gives voice to language which needs no elucidation, as its pertinence and significance are thus most beautifully expressed: "If grape gatherers come to thee, would they not leave some gleaning grapes? If thieves, by night, they will destroy till they have enough."

The edict had gone forth in the prophetic denunciation by Ezekiel (35: 7): "Thus will I make Mount Seir most desolate and cut off from it him that passeth out and him that returneth." What construction will you place on the statement "cut off from (Seir) him that passeth out and him that returneth?" Surely it cannot be interpreted as annihilation or extermination. No, the language is too significant and comprehensive to be misunderstood. They were a maritime people, controlling the commerce of the Red Sea; their ships were constantly passing in and out of their two great seaports, Elloth and Ezion-geber. Just here I shall anticipate the interrogation. No, they did not all abandon their original home or inheritance for the land they had acquired by the sword. One tribe, or nation, remained and held its rocky

fastness to the exclusion of all Eastern nations; obviously for their mutual benefit. Here was their great commercial emporium or mart for the exchange of products of both lands. Thanks to that good and plain matter-of-fact man, missionary and historian, John Heckewelder, who has preserved to us a tradition that was extant among those whom he spiritually advised for more than thirty years. He informs us that their proper national name was Lenni Lenape. These are the people with a Jewish cast of countenance, which were located in our county, treated with William Penn, commonly called Delawares, who possessed the peculiar feature of being pigeon-toed, and the subject of my text. Quoting Heckewelder: "The Indians consider the earth as their universal mother. They believe that they were created within its bosom, where for a long time they had their abode before they came to live on its surface. The Indian mythologists are not agreed as to the form under which they existed while in the earth. Some assert that they lived in human shape, while others contend that their existence was in the form of a certain terrestrial animals, such as the groundhog, the rabbit and tortoise. This was their state of preparation until they were permitted to come out and take their station on this Island." The tradition further states that they did not all leave their original home. "The groundhog would not come out."

Elucidation seems superfluous. Make your own deductions, and you cannot fail to discover the evidence of their original home and their landed possessions on the two continents to be irrefutable. But, if you please, Heckewelder supplies us with an additional link in the chain of evidence relative to their original habitation: "The compound word, Lenni-Lenape, was

significant of people at the rising of the sun, or Eastlanders, and were acknowledged by nearly forty Indian tribes, whom we call nations, as being their grandfathers." This is the information imparted by the most reliable colonial historian, who was unbiased and unprejudiced, and whose veracity has never been questioned. The metaphorical expression "grandfathers" was significant of ancestors hence, they were regarded the eldest of all nations. Then, too, in the terrestrial animals by which the several tribes were represented. I beg to say, I have traced their origin to the birthplace of the Edomite nation. They were the totems of Esau's posterity, and were significant of the several spheres of their existence. The tortoise or turtle tribe, as Heckewelder informs us, claimed a superiority and ascendancy over all others. They were the sailors who, in the early dawn of their historic morning, navigated the sea; hence the water was their element and the turtle a fitting totem. The home of the groundhog, we are cognizant, is highly significant of his name. Consider then if you please, the original home of the Lenni Lenapes, a knowledge of which has been perpetuated by tradition and transmitted to posterity in mythological form. It is needless, therefore, to dwell on or call further attention to the cave dwellings and temples of Petra, which, as all students know, were excavated out of the living rocks which surrounded the city; standing two and three hundred feet high, thus forming a natural wall. Next in consideration will be the dispossessing of the original inhabitants of the so-called Island of their homes, palaces, temples and lands. In the forests of Yucatan and Central America lie buried under the moss of time and vegetation of centuries the remains of ruined, though once magnificent, edi-

fices, in the shape of palaces and temples. The question is frequently asked, "Can the problem of builders and the uses of these structures be solved?" I have the temerity to answer the question in the affirmative, briefly in passing. The Supreme Architect in His infinite wisdom caused a people who became polytheists and ignored Him as the one true and omnipotent God to erect colossal works of art that would withstand the vandal hand of time, upon whose facades they wrote their own epitaphs, with pardonable pride, to be read by one who lays no claim to science. To resume, in brief, the posterity of Esau by the sword gained dominion and broke the yoke of his brother, Jacob. The constructors of the temples and palaces who escaped the sword fled to the North and became the pioneers of North America. Hecke-welder informs us that the Lenni Lenapes, or "Eastlanders," recognized a people who they called "Rattlesnakes" as their grandfathers. Hence it became apparent that the nation or peoples which had preceded them were Ophites. The science of philology does not inform us if the latter word was corrupted by the Hebrew tongue into Ophir. Notwithstanding, the serpent played a dual role, and was an important and significant emblem with them.

The Edomites enjoyed a long and peaceable possession of the land which they had acquired by the sword; but, as previously remarked, their pride and wealth made them ambitious to extend their power and territory in the Orient. The prophet, however, informs us "the Lord was there," or, in other words, they did not accomplish their purpose. According to the chronology of the writer in the seventh century B. C. they were made "most desolate" by a great convulsion in nature. Three gigantic and marvelous transi-

tions were enacted—water took the place of land, and land of water; the great mountainous connecting link between the two continents dropped into the bowels of the earth, and the 2,000,000 square miles of water rushed from its native bed to fill the chasm; and what was then an inland sea was transformed into what is now known as the great desert Sahara. The Mediterranean, too, was compelled to seek its level and break through the rocky fastness of Gibraltar, thus producing an outlet to the Northern Atlantic. How expressive and significant the language of the prophet Jeremiah (49: 21): “The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the noise thereof the cry was heard in the Red Sea.” We can well imagine such a fearful convulsion in nature would move the earth from centre to circumference. But why should the prophet inform us that the cause of the noise was first heralded from the Red Sea when the denunciation applied to Mount Seir? It is self-evident those of Seir had not yet learned of their desolation until they were informed by the Tarshish sailors. Again quoting the same prophet (49: 20): “Therefore hear the counsel of the Lord that he hath taken against Edom and his purpose that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman. Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out; surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.” It now becomes apparent that the inhabitants of Teman were also to be made desolate. It would be wholly inconsistent from the language quoted to seek for the geographical location of Teman on the Eastern continent, notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary. Teman, we learn, was the grandson of Esau; and, I beg to add, the one whose posterity was instrumental in gaining dominion on the Western continent and breaking the yoke of Jacob.

If you please, let us indulge in a bit of play on the imagination. We follow one of the Tarshish fleet which is about to leave the seaport Elloth. Supposing the period or time immediately subsequent to the great convulsion of nature. They have taken advantage of the monsoon winds which blow for six consecutive months from the East. Ophir being their objective point, they round the modern Cape of Good Hope and sail northwest, heading in the direction of what are now known as the Cape Verd Islands. As they near the latter we recognize there is something wrong, as all is commotion on board the foremost vessel. A cry goes forth from the latter; this is followed in concert by those on board the other vessels. Horror and amazement are depicted on their countenances at the discovery that the familiar mountain chain forming the connecting link between the "world" and the great island was no longer visible. The only vestige to be seen was the apex of the mountains forming the islands towards which they had headed their vessels. Beyond only a trackless ocean which they had not learned to navigate met their sight. Here they beheld the unmistakable hand-writing of God, desolation—utter desolation. The El Dorado, their land of gold, the island which contained the fatness of the earth, had been swallowed up, and with it they naturally imagined thousands of their people. They return whence they came and cry aloud, as they sail up the Red Sea, the cause of the noise and their fall or the desolation of homes and land. However, by way of consolation, and to soften their grief, the prophet informs them of God's promise—"Leave thy fatherless children; I will preserve them alive and thy widows trust in me." There is no evidence that Mount Seir, or Petra, has been visited by any convulsion of nature. But for Time's effacing fingers

her rock-hewn dwellings and temples could be seen in all their primitive grandeur. The two sea ports, Eloth and Ezion-geber, occupy the same geographical quarter. Even the Red Sea is not marked by any perceptible transition. Vain and useless, therefore, to seek for evidence in that quarter. But beneath the mighty waves of the Atlantic lie buried conclusive and irrefutable proofs of the medium by which Edom and Teman were made most desolate. But let us visit the land acquired by the sword, and contemplate it at the time the edict had gone forth. "The earth is moved at the noise of their fall." The subterranean thunders vibrate and revibrate. Their island reeled and tossed like a ship in a tempest; and from the shaking sides of Popocatepetl and other volcanoes in proximity belched forth tons of ashes, obscuring the sun and causing a pall of the blackest night to envelop them. Madly they rushed from an impending and unknown fate. Chaos reigned supreme. Their lives were spared, however, that they might witness their desolation and learn the Lord had been there. Harmony was again restored. The sun once more smiled upon them. But hark! to that wail and cry as they gaze upon the ocean! A voice in unmistakable language comes from the deeps, proclaiming, "Behold the evidence of the edict!" "Pass through thy land as a river. "Howl ships of Tarshish, your strength is laid waste." And if to mark the spot or location of the connecting link between the two continents, His wise and wondrous hand caused those yet unexplained ocean currents to play around its unseen borders, while the deep sea soundings reveal what nature never fashioned under water, namely, the irregularities in the shape of mountains and valleys. Then, too, the hand boards on the broad ocean, the islands, or rather the

apex of the loftiest submerged mountains, remain to speak of its existence and the desolation caused by its submergence. In brief, they fled from the land and their ruined cities and followed in the wake of those who centuries before were dispossessed by their ancestors. Generations passed to the happy hunting grounds; still they continued their emigration. Seemingly there yet remained one more part in life's drama which they were to perform. The decree, "By the sword shalt thou live," again was to be exemplified. Their circuitous route at last brought them to the west bank of the Northern Mississippi. Here posterity met posterity in deadly hostility. Again the red son of Isaac was victorious, while the posterity of the pioneers, or original discoverers, returned to the land of their ancestors, whose ruined temples, arts and hieroglyphics were not strange or unknown to them. As to the subsequent peregrinations and acts of the red son of Isaac, or the Lenni Lenapes of our county, the modern historian has forged the additional links in the historical chain of their sojourn and exodus; and he would have us believe they were ignorant, unlettered and savage. However, had he viewed them from a standpoint of intelligence, instead of ignorance, he would have discovered the wisdom and high culture possessed by their ancestors. Their traditions in the shape of wampum belts, their birch bark records and parchment histories were enigmas to him; hence, from his inability to understand them, his red brother, of course, must be ignorant. But as I have already transcended the limits prescribed I will conclude, however, begging to remark, as I lay no claims to that of a writer, I am sensible of the unsatisfactory treatment of this important subject. Regretting my inability, therefore, to regale you with "apples of gold in pictures of silver,"

I trust, however, that God's Word and other evidence by which I have been enabled to remove the veil that has hung like a long night over all pertaining to the Who, What and Whence of the Lenni Lenapes, or Temanites, of our county will atone for any omission or commission on the part of your humble servant.

Author: Urban, Theodore L.

Title: American Indians : the who, what and whence of the
Pre-Columbian dwellers, or the misnomered peoples,
Indians, of Lancaster County / by Theodore L. Urban,
Esq.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Indians of North America--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.
Delaware Indians--Pennsylvania--Lancaster County.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society,
1897-98

Description: [89]-103 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 2,
no. 4

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.2

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

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