

PORCELAIN CHIMNEY-PIECE.

Our engraving shows a chimney-piece, standing about twelve feet high, constructed entirely of hard and soft porcelain by the Rörstrand Company, Limited, Sweden. Its general color is lavender and celadon, picked out with gold, but there are other colors blending with these and making a harmonious whole of great delicacy and richness. The fireplace is surrounded with a beautiful border of flowers and leaves in white porcelain picked out with gold. The columns on either side are divided into plain panels of lavender and gold, separated by richly ornamented medallions. Above the columns is a frieze with scroll work of singularly beautiful design in celadon, lavender, and fine tracery in gold, while above that again is the white porcelain shelf, resembling in its purity and polish the richest marble. Above this, in the center of a long horizontal panel ornamented with an elegant scroll pattern in relief, is a charmingly modeled figure of Cupid, in the round, a most beautifully executed porcelain. Just over the Cupid, in a niche prepared for it, is an Etruscan vase standing some three feet high. The design and coloring of this vase may be said to be the *motif* for the rest of the chimney-piece, which is, so to speak, built up around this central figure. On either side of the vase are columns, banded into diamonds below, and ornamented above with medallions containing the insignia of the arts and sciences. The whole space between the niche and columns is filled with scroll work, highly elaborated, yet of the most chaste design. The upper part of this superb work is in harmony with the richness of its lower portion. While the ornamentation is equally elaborate, it is lighter in color and treatment, and gives an effect of finish which is altogether satisfactory. Whether in this piece we consider the adaptability of the material to the use proposed, or the character of the ornamentation allowable in an object of this kind, or simply the effect of the whole as we see it, there can be but one opinion of its merit: its purity and harmony of design are admirable.

History and Antiquities of Arizona.

The early history of Arizona has still to be written, but it is in most respects identical with that of Southern California, New Mexico, and Northern Mexico. That the original inhabitants belonged to the same civilization as that under which Mexico rose to so comparatively high a grade long before Cortes landed on its shores, is usually conceded, but whether the bulk of the people removed southward toward the consolidated empire of the Aztecs before the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards; whether they remained and were swept away by the Spanish invasion from the south; or whether the Apache from the north drove them out of the open lands into the recesses of the cañons, and finally extinguished all but the few pueblos still remaining, is not certainly proven.

Probably the truth lies between the three opinions, and all the causes may have contributed to the depopulation of the country and to the ruin of the extensive cities, dwellings, canals, etc., which strew the plains and line the sides of the cañons. To the student of history nothing in Arizona equals in interest these architectural remains. Now that the railway is finished, many of these are comparatively accessible—the famous Casa Grande being only a few miles from the station of that name, while numerous other ruins exist in the districts around Florence and Phoenix.

A few miles from Phoenix are the ruins of two or three towns and the remains of two stupendous canals, one of which is forty feet wide, and in former times drew its supply of water from the river near the mountains, twenty miles distant. In this neighborhood are also the ruins of a building occupying a parallelogram of twenty feet by one hundred and thirty, with walls still over ten feet high. At from twelve to fourteen miles of Phoenix, at La Tempe, are remains of what must have been a populous city, and also another system of canals and reservoirs. Ruins of a similar description to those of Casa Grande have been found in the Rio Verde valley, on Pueblo creek and at Aztec pass.

Casa Grande, discovered by Father Kino, three hundred years ago, is situated near the Gila, a few miles from Florence. The main building is about fifty-five feet square, and four stories in height, with traces of two more stories. Each story contains five rooms, two thirty-five by ten feet, the other three twenty-four by nine feet, and all of them nine feet in height. The openings which once served for doors are three feet and one half high, two and one half feet wide at the base, and two feet wide at top. The whole of the interior is neatly plastered, the plaster perfect as when first put on. This building is surrounded by a wall, which, when perfect, was perhaps fifteen feet high, and six feet

thick at the base, and within this are several smaller apartments, besides a sort of watch tower at the southeast and southwest corners.

The towns of the Moqui and Zuni, the former in the north of Arizona, and the latter just over the border in New Mexico, are in so many respects similar to the ruins scattered on plain and cañon, that they evidently belong to the same civilization; but whether the Indians are the remains of a separate tribe, or the remnants of many tribes, is one of the problems of the history of America.

In the Gila valley, one hundred and twenty miles from Tucson, are the famous Piedras Pintadas. A heap of rocks, about fifty feet high, is covered with rude figures, geometric, comic, anatomical. Here are squares, circles, crosses, triangles, snakes, toads, and vermin: men without heads and dogs without tails. The sketches show considerable similarity to the Aztec Calendar Stone in Mexico. It is a tradi-



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tion with the Indians that those stones were put there in the time of Montezuma to record treaties between different tribes.

The "Indians" of Arizona evidently belong to several very different stocks. The wild Apache, formidable for his stealthiness and treachery more than from his numbers; the peaceful, not easily provoked, yet brave Pimo; the industrious Papago, and the town-dwelling, family-loving, orderly, clean, and self-contained Moqui, have little in common.

The distance which separates the rude Apache from the Moqui, with his old and respectable civilization, is as great as that between the rude tribes of Siberia and the cultivated Japanese.

The ruins in the cañons, on almost inaccessible terraces, are believed, by Major Powell, to be more recent than those of the plains. He believes the people took refuge there to escape the Spanish incursions.

THREE blow-flies with their descendants will devour the body of a dead horse as quickly as will a lion.—*Linnaeus.*

Prehistoric Treasures of the Pacific Coast.

The Pacific coast, from Alaska to the Isthmus of Panama, is rich in vestiges of prehistoric races. Speaking of the lack of concerted efforts to gather up these important evidences of early man, and the need of a museum in San Francisco to illustrate the ethnology of the coast races, the *Bulletin*, of that city, says:

The field for exploration has been considered one of the most important on the globe. It has attracted the attention of scientists in Europe, and for years agents of scientific societies have been at work here. M. Pinart, a French scientist, has been working on this coast for years. He is an original investigator. He goes everywhere. Now he is digging into mounds in British Columbia, and next he may be on the islands in Tulare Lake exhuming skeletons. Then he goes off to Arizona, spends weeks or months among the Indians, learning their language, notes down every word he finds, formulates dictionaries, makes accurate drawings of the prehistoric ruins of Arizona, transcribes all the hieroglyphics which he finds, gathers up implements illustrating the Stone Age, looks into all the relics of Aztec civilization, examines hundreds of skulls and skeletons, and transmits the more valuable to Paris. Next he is in Sonoma doing the same kind of work. Probably, first and last, M. Pinart has sent over to Paris nearly a ship-load of specimens. If these were now arranged in San Francisco, one of the most interesting museums of prehistoric records would be found here. But the specimens are not in San Francisco. No systematic effort has been made in that direction. M. Pinart makes his shipments, and prosecutes his scientific investigations from year to year.

Professor Bird has asked an appropriation by Congress for the prosecution of substantially the same work. He notes the fact that these relics are fast disappearing. That in a short time the records illustrating the ethnology of the Pacific side will disappear. The Smithsonian Institution, he thinks, ought to prosecute investigations in this field. Pierre Lorillard also proposes to bear half the expenses of a French expedition to Mexico for the same purpose. The relics discovered are all to be deposited in a French museum in Paris. M. Charney, a French savant, is to make the explorations. Nothing is gained for this country except the honor of having a man liberal enough to make a large appropriation for the purpose of adding something to the knowledge of the world touching prehistoric races. No doubt the interest which foreign countries are taking in the investigation has stimulated the managers of the Smithsonian Institution to ask for an appropriation from Congress for a like purpose.

The collection which has been deposited in this city illustrating prehistoric times, and especially the ethnology of races, amounts to very little. There is an odd specimen here and there—a skeleton, a skull, and a few stone implements, and that is about all. California is rich in their records; Arizona is richer still; Sonora, and all Mexico, are full of them. They are of sufficient value to be shipped to Europe. These shipments include some of the rarest specimens known in the world. New Mexico is also one of the most interesting fields for archaeological investigations on this continent. The French scientists understand all this. They have now two expeditions in the field, or will have in a few days. M. Pinart's investigations are recorded in quarto pamphlet publications in Paris, and these in time form large volumes covering his archaeological investigations. Probably M. Charney's investigations will be recorded in the same way. This country is not treasuring up her own historical monuments. They are treasured up by foreign

scientific bodies. Is there no scientific body on this north-west coast which can prosecute investigations in this department?

It would take a few thousand dollars to lay the foundation of one of the most interesting museums in the world. One or two men in the field would be sufficient. No doubt arrangements could be made for duplicate specimens to be furnished by the investigators now in the field. But what is most remarkable is that San Francisco, which is almost in the center of the most interesting fields for archaeological and ethnological investigations in the world, has no public collection, no museum illustrating these departments of science, although there are hundreds of odd specimens owned by individuals here and there. It was reserved for a French savant to give the most accurate explanation of the mounds which are found in this State, some of which are hardly more than an hour's ride from the city. He opened these mounds, exhumed the skeletons, examined all the articles deposited, and gave a more intelligent and satisfactory account of the origin and purpose of the mounds than had ever been given before.