

S.H. 1829

**THE HOPE OF ISRAEL;
PRESUMPTIVE EVIDENCE**

THAT THE
ABORIGINES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
●●
ARE DESCENDED FROM THE
TEN MISSING TRIBES OF ISRAEL.

נחמו נחמו עמי יאמר
אלהיכם: דברו על לב ירושלם
קראו אליה כי מלאה צבאה כי
נרצה עונה כי לקחה מיד
יהוה נפלים בכל השמאיתיה:

Isaiah xl.



BY BARBARA ANNE SIMON.

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piece of money, which is made of the bone of a fish.' "None shall appear empty before me." He adds, 'They reckon by *moons*; they offer their *first ripe fruits*; they have a *kind of feast of tabernacles*; they are said to lay their *altars with twelve stones*; they mourn a year, and observe the *Mosaic law with regard to separation*, with *many things* which do not now occur.' Here is an artless testimony given by that worthy man, drawn from personal observation, while the idea, that the people so descended were really Hebrew, was far from his mind.

In a letter, dated March 24, 1823, a Missionary,* gives an account of some of the customs of the Osage Indians. He attended a large company of them to Fort Smith, where a treaty of peace was to be formed with the Cherokees. The evening before, they arrived on the hill, where, in the morning, they should celebrate their customary peace-medicine, (a religious ceremony, previous to a treaty,) for the purpose of cleansing their hearts, and *securing* to themselves sincerity in thinking and acting. Ten of the chiefs, including the priest of the atmosphere, (the name of one of their clans,) were selected, and sent beneath a hedge, to dream, or learn, whether any error had thus far been committed; or, as they express

* Rev. Mr. Cha

the back track. Among their sacred ceremonies were prayers, sacred paintings, anointings, &c. The priest ordered his senior attendant to form a circle of grass, about four feet in diameter, and to place a large tuft in the centre. By this he made a long prayer: then stepping on the circle, and followed by his attendant, they passed on. The chief informed Mr. C. that this circle of grass was a representation of GOD. He adds, 'It is their universal * practice to *salute the dawn* of every morning with their devotion.' This is either in silent or other aspiration to GOD. He, in concluding, observes, 'Perhaps the curious may suppose that some allusion to the lost ten tribes of Israel may be discovered in the select dreamers, to the triune JEHOVAH; in the grass circle, to the Jewish purifyings and anointings; to the sacred rite of the sanctuary, in their secret consultations; and to the prophetic office, in that of the dreamers.' When they possessed the written ORACLES in their own land, the tribes of Israel, or rather their leaders, were reproached for preferring, and gaining more attention to, *their own dreams*, than to its testimony. The Holy ONE of Israel accused them of then speaking from their own mind, and saying, "*We have dreamed—we have dreamed!*" as if secure of a regard which was denied to the written WORD.

* A custom among all pious Hebrews at this day.