

parison of basic principles and details that the relationship between the tribes of Asia and America can be proven if it really exists.

The technical rules by which the inquiry is to be guided have been stated with sufficient clearness by Major Powell in his third annual report as Director of the Bureau of Ethnology.

Briefly they are, not in order, but in his language, as follows: 1. "When many similarities among two or more peoples are discovered in institutions, languages, and mythic opinions, the presumption is that they all have a common origin in some ancient stock from whom the savage tribes have been derived." 2. "Seeking for further confirmation of this, if it was found that the two peoples spoke the same language, or allied languages, this hypothesis would be strengthened; if it was found that they had other arts in common, that their institutions were alike in many respects, and that their mythologies were substantially the same, the view that the two tribes belonged to the same stock would be accepted." (2)

It is illogical and unreasonable from slight resemblances between the aboriginal arts of Brazil and Syria, for example, to attempt to draw satisfactory conclusions touching the common origin of these tribes; the nations to be compared must be in geographical juxtaposition; there must be probable routes of migration between them, and satisfactory evidence of an actual movement. These conditions are met in the near proximity of Asia and America at Berings Strait, and the existence of the great ocean current of the North Pacific,—the *Kuro shiwo*, or "black stream" of the Japanese. Berings Strait is but 40 miles wide; from time immemorial man has crossed and recrossed it in trade, travel and war. Berings Sea is one of the accepted food stations in the march of mankind from Asia to America (3) When the Russians first reached East Cape they found natives of America held as slaves on the Asiatic shores, and received from the Kamtschatkans such an accurate description of the peninsula of Lower

(2) 3rd Ann. Rep. Bureau of Ethnology, pp. 65-74. Powell.

(3) Migration and the Food Quest. Smithsonian Rep., 1894, p. 523. Mason.