

publication of the same distinguished author, „Hommes Fossiles et Hommes Sauvages.“ It will be sufficient to say that the earliest settlement in eastern Polynesia, next to that of Tahiti (of which the date is uncertain), appears to have been made in the Marquesas (Nukuhiva), somewhat less than two thousand years ago. The Sandwich Islands were peopled in the seventh century after Christ, — Rarotonga and the Gambier Islands (Mangareva) in the thirteenth century, — New-Zealand in the fifteenth century and the Austral Islands less than three hundred years ago. In fact, the colonization of the Pacific islands by the Polynesian race was still going on in the time of Cook, and is even yet not completed. In the middle of the present century the eight easternmost coral islands of the Paumotu or Low Archipelago, which stretches from Tahiti to the neighborhood of the Gambier group, had not yet been peopled. And it is well known that the mutineers of the *Bounty* found the fertile and inviting island on which they took refuge, and conferred celebrity, uninhabited.

There is a curious synchronism between the peopling of these Pacific groups and that of some islands of the Atlantic. The Sandwich Islands were settled only about two centuries earlier than Iceland and the Faroe Islands; and the Gambier group and Rarotonga were colonized some four centuries later than these Atlantic islands. New Zealand received its population shortly before Madeira and the Azores were settled; and Rimatara and the other Austral Islands of Polynesia were peopled shortly after that event. The great wave of humanity, spreading eastward and westward from some common centre, and arrested for a time on the farthest coasts of Asia and Europe, seems to have passed those bounds and reached the islands of the two dividing oceans at nearly the same period.

It is of course not impossible, nor very improbable, that after the eastern islands of Polynesia had thus been peopled, canoes bearing natives of those islands may occasionally have made their way to the west coast of America. But if the occupants of those canoes found the coast on which they