

Copper River. But the dialects at both extremities are so different that the Indians, living widely apart from one another, require the interpretation of intermediate tribes to understand each other ; it was however originally and is substantially the same language. West and North of Poinut, the Mahlemut, Esquimaux, Innuits, or Orarians, as they are variously called, speak another language, but how it is divided I cannot say, as I have not found, to my great dismay, the means to visit them. I do not wish to enter into the question whether all these Indians are of the same race, or of different races, whether they are all of the Carribean race or some of the Montgolian, and others of the Carribean, whether the coast Indians come from Asia, say, from Japan and Kamschatka ; or are, as well as those of the interior, aborigenes of America. Of course, the identity of language reveals the same original descent ; but difference of language is not sufficient proof to establish a difference of race ; there are, certainly, Mongolian features among the coast Indians, but you find the same in the interior. Religious practices and superstitions tend to show identity of original descent ; the coast Indian, given to fishing and feeding chiefly on oily substances, is short and fat ; the Indian of the interior, inured to the fatigue of hunting on the mountains, and feeding chiefly on meat, is tall and thin ; this, of course, is only the rule, admitting of numerous exceptions. But, enough about this question ; I believe it is quite possible that the coast Indians are of the Mongolian race, also the Indians of the interior of the Carribean, but I have met no proof, not even an argument worthy of the name, which is able to substantiate that difference of race. A linguistic test, perhaps, applied according to Muller's Science of Languages, will solve this problem ; so far, it is certainly not solved.