

sible under the climatal conditions characteristic of this region. Prior to the advent of the whites scarcity of food and winter famines were by no means uncommon incidents in the life of the aborigines, as we learn both from themselves and from their traditional histories ; and if adults and experienced foragers found a difficulty in procuring winter supplies small chance would there be for lost or abandoned children of tender years to do so. It is true that where these diverse stocks attain their maximum density the conditions required by Mr. Hale's theory are found to obtain, but the number of stocks north of this favoured region is yet sufficiently great to preclude the possibility of their having sprung into existence in this manner. In the comparatively limited area of British Columbia alone we have, according to the received classification, seven distinct stocks to account for ; that is, twice the number that is found elsewhere throughout those thousands of broad miles that make up the rest of British North America, and about the same number as are found scattered over that vast region which stretches on the one hand from the eastern slopes of the Rockies to the Atlantic seaboard and on the other from the 30th parallel north to the frozen waters of the Arctic ocean. It remains then to account for the presence of these numerous northern stocks by some other hypothesis than that suggested by Mr. Hale, and the following linguistic notes on some of the stocks of this region are offered in the belief that the evidence they furnish of the *extra*-American affinities of our coast tribes yield us a less conjectural solution of this interesting problem.

And I cannot help here in the first place pointing out that, apart from the positive evidence of the fact which I have to offer, there is nothing antecedently impossible or even improbable in the hypothesis of an *extra*-American origin for our west coast tribes ; and the disfavour with which this view is held by some of our eastern Americanists has long been a matter of astonishment to me. That wide-spread Oceanic race which has spread itself from Madagascar on the west to Hawaii on the east, and from Formosa on the north to Easter Island on the south, may well have made some settlements on our western shores which are but 1800 miles from their present easternmost colony ; which distance is but a little more than one-tenth of the interval between the most remote divisions of this stock ; and less than one-fourth of the distance the ancestors of the Easter Islanders themselves passed over in sailing thither, if we bring them from the common centre and original home of their race. Thirty-four generations ago the great Polynesian navigator Maui was sailing far and wide over the Pacific waters in his great double canoes each of which was capable of carrying from 200 to 300 people. We know he reached the Fijian group and from thence sailed away and discovered Ata and the other islands of the Tongan group ; from whence he sailed to New Zealand, left a portion of his people there, and returned to Tonga again ; and