

the last province in northern Honshiu from which the Ainos were displaced, on their retreat into Yezo—only 5 to 10 per cent. of Aino names are now preserved. Yet the displacement from that province, has been effected only within the last hundred years. The well recognized persistence of Aino names, however, is very properly taken advantage of to determine the former dispersion of the people. This persistence of place names for many centuries, again gives rise to the pertinent query, if certain of them of obscure meaning may not similarly have been derived from the predecessors of the Ainos? for that predecessors there were, is accepted as probable by the best ethnologists, in spite of a few efforts to show that the various kitchen middens with their pottery, originated at the hands of the Ainos.

The most important question involved in the present memoir, is the former distribution of the Ainos, and the evidence directed toward its solution is of great value. The view most generally held is,<sup>1</sup> that they descended from the north and gradually dispersed over the whole of Japan, being afterward gradually driven back by the Japanese. Historical evidence shows that the Ainos were at least as far south as Tokyo, and within recent periods, they have occupied the north of Honshiu. At present, they are exclusively confined to Yezo and the islands to the north, but their range of distribution, like that of the North American Indian, is being continually reduced.

But to the solution of this question, Prof. Chamberlain directs the evidence of place names with such success as to leave little room for doubt. Traces of them are thus found to the extreme southern limits of Japan, and on the islands of Ikē and Tsushima; so that these people were undoubtedly the predecessors of the Japanese all over the Archipelago. And again, the author<sup>2</sup> directs attention to the probability that, since the surnames of ancient families were often derived from villages and places, the names of many families of the present day, doubtless represent the influence of the Aino upon the Japanese language.

<sup>1</sup> Can. Rec. Sc. I, 11.