

the northern Atlantic; and others again—as philological evidence seems to indicate,—along the same route as that which Columbus successfully pursued in 1492. But to the primary migrations we know not how remote a date to assign, in order to allow of the interblending of intruding races, and the development of the native American “Red Man” with all his distinctive traits of individuality. For, while it is important to note the elements of diversity, it is nevertheless true that the New World does differ from the Old in the narrow range of such variations of race-type through all extremes of climate from arctic to temperate, tropical, and antarctic. The European traveller who surveys his own continent from the northern habitat of the Fins and Lapps, and the corresponding Asiatic hyperboreans, and then traverses the eastern hemisphere to the Cape or to the Indian Ocean, comes in contact with all intermediate varieties between the two extremes of the white and black races; and recognizes in western Europe the Melanocroi who seem to be the resultant of their inter-blending in prehistoric times. But in America we seem to see no more than a result analogous to the latter; and this as the product of more nearly allied primitive stocks, the largely preponderating element of which has been derived from the Mongol area of eastern Asia. Philological evidence, on the other hand, no less clearly indicates the remoteness of the migrations by which this first colonization of the New World was effected; it may be, indeed, that they pertain to periods when the physical geography of both continents, and of the intermediate archipelago, afforded facilities for migration altogether wanting within historic times.

But such ideas of a derivative origin of the American aborigines are of very modern growth, and are only now displacing long accredited beliefs. That the man of this New World must prove a being essentially different from any known race of Europe, Africa, or Asia, was an opinion which assumed ever stronger confirmation, as the idea of Columbus that he had landed on the eastern Continent faded away from the minds of his successors. The Indians of his new-found world were no natives of Cipango, or the valley of the Indus; and the literature of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries abounds with evidence that it was much easier to persuade the men of that age that Calibans and monstrous Anthropophagi peopled the strange regions beyond the Atlantic, than that these were inhabited by human beings like themselves.