

THE ORIGIN OF THE ESKIMO AS TRACED BY THE LANGUAGE.

The object of the former volume was, in connection with an abstract of the Grammar and a comparative vocabulary to elucidate the question of the origin of the Eskimo by some general considerations. The chief result arrived at was a theory, according to which their ancestors originally inhabited a territory situated somewhere in the interior of the North American Continent, whence they emigrated and following the water courses, were led to a littoral of the arctic or subarctic regions, most probably that of Alaska. Settled on the shores of that country they developed their wonderful art of capturing marine animals which culminated in their marvellous capability of facing even the most terrible experiences of the arctic clime. From Alaska they then should have emigrated, spreading gradually to the East and North over the vast regions since tenanted by them. In bringing forward this explanation of how even the most forbidding part of our globe could obtain inhabitants, we have, it is true, omitted mentioning the possibility of the Eskimo having inhabited a more southern littoral, and by simply following the coast line reached the higher latitudes. Such a supposition however will, on closer investigation prove to be more improbable. Migrations of this kind could only have been effected from three different coastal regions, namely those on the Eastern,