

peopled the Aleutian islands, whereas people of the principal race later on settled at the river-mouths, spreading northward along Bering Strait and hiving off some colonies to the opposite shore proceeded around Point Barrow to the east, the Mackenzie river, over the Central Regions or Arctic Archipelago, and finally to Labrador and Greenland. This dispersion may have taken thousands of years; they can only have proceeded in small bands, very much as still they are used to move about during certain seasons. Their only way of procuring subsistence in the vast deserts they passed over, excluded the possibility of national migrations on a larger scale. While in this way they continued to discover new countries, some families were induced to go farther, others remained and finally gave rise to the present scattered settlements. But in proposing this hypothesis I consider it a matter of course that Alaska as the original home of the Eskimo is not to be taken in the strictest sense, absolutely excluding adjacent parts of the continent towards the east. Tribes of the same race may have come down the Mackenzie or even more easterly rivers, but amalgamated with the principal stock, learning their inventions and adopting their mode of life. But as to the other theory, that the Eskimo should have migrated from Asia via Bering Strait and found the Indian territory already occupied by the same nations as now, this objection must be separately taken into consideration in connection with the facts bearing in favour of the former.