

groups were—following Major J. W. Powell's classification and nomenclature—the Algonquian, Iroquoian, Esquimauan, Athapascan, Beothukan and Chimmesyan families, the Siouan in part, the Kitunahan, Skitlegatan, and the Salishan and Wakashan in part.

However, the dawn of Indian history in the Dominion of Canada dates back of Cartier's entrance into the St. Lawrence (1534) and even back of the appearance of Cabot on the coast of Labrador (1497). For the date of the first contact of the natives of Canada with people of the white race we must go back in the past to the appearance of the adventurous Northmen on the northeastern coast, which has perhaps a more important bearing in the study of prehistoric North America than is generally conceded. The recent re-examination by Storm, Reeves, Fischer, and others of the data relating to the discovery by the Northmen, has resulted not only in limiting the range of these adventurers along the coast of the New World, but also in determining more satisfactorily the localities visited. For example, it is now generally conceded that Helluland is Labrador; Markland, the Island of Newfoundland; and Vinland, or Wineland, the eastern part of Nova Scotia. The opinion formerly held that the natives encountered by Thorfinn Karlsefne in Vinland were Eskimo (Skrelings) is now considered erroneous; the two or three words uttered by them and the few characteristics noticed are not considered Esquimauan, but more likely Micmac or Beothukan—probably the former. If this conclusion be accepted, as now seems probable, then, to those who hold the theory that man's first appearance in North America was on the northwest coast in the post-Glacial era, this, and the additional fact that the Eskimo were most certainly met by the Northmen in Greenland, are positive proofs that these tribes or their ancestors had traversed the continent by the tenth century. Already the Eskimo had become an arctic people, had already skirted the northern coasts, and already adopted the customs suited to their habitats and mode of life. Already the great Algonquian stock had reached the Atlantic coast in its progress eastward. These facts must, therefore, form a basis of comparison and of time estimates in studying the traditions and early movements of the northern tribes.

The Eskimo, or Innuut, as they call themselves, have in the past occupied, and do yet in part occupy, a fringe of land along the Atlantic coast north of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; around the east and west sides of Hudson Bay; the Arctic coast and neighboring islands westward to Bering Strait, and down the northwest coast to the Alaskan Peninsula. They have seldom penetrated far into the interior, being essentially a littoral people, relying upon the products of the sea for food, clothing, and implements. From Alaska along the whole immense stretch of several thousand miles to, and including, Greenland, they all speak the same language, with but minor dialectic variations, and have the same general customs. They have always been a comparatively gentle and peaceable people, as is apparent not only from the reports of Arctic explorers, but also from the fact that they have always rendered assistance to these explorers when needed, and have never been known to attack isolated parties of whites who were not aggressors, however enfeebled by hunger, though these helpless visitors may have possessed many objects tempting to them.

We agree with S. E. Dawson (Can. and N. Fr. Stanford's Compend. N. Am. I. 67, 1897), in the belief that the general tenor of the