

The Aryan origin of the Ainos has been insisted upon by several ethnologists, and is indeed the view most generally held at the present time. It is therefore a matter of great interest to find that certain affinities of language are now pointed out, offering as they do, additional proof of the probable correctness of this view.

Resemblances between the Japanese and Aino languages, are very properly shown to be only apparent. Every one familiar with these people, knows that they use many Japanese words and expressions, and from this the inference has more than once been hastily drawn, that there is an intimate relation between the two people. It would be quite as correct, on similar grounds, to establish an affinity between the European and North American Indian. Prof. Chamberlain, however, shows very clearly, that while these languages are fundamentally distinct, they have become more or less blended as a natural consequence of the intimate relations of the two people. Nor could we look for any other result, when such relations have extended over a period of twenty-five centuries. Borrowings from one to the other were frequently made, and thus on the one hand we get the Japanese form in the Aino language, while on the other, Aino names persist wherever these people have once had a habitation. Such names thus become a part of the Japanese language, although, usually, in a perverted form; sometimes the modification is carried so far as to render the original form of the word very obscure and hard to determine. These changes, occurring as they are at the present day, afford a most important clue to similar changes in the past, and thus, as we shall see later, serve a most important purpose in tracing the original distribution of the Ainos. Of familiar examples we may give the following:

*Atkesh* becomes *Akkeshi*; *Shikot* has been changed to *Chitose*; *Poronai* is *Horonai*, and a most modern example, since the change has been made within fifteen years, is the conversion of *Satsuporo* into *Sapporo*. That these changes have, on the whole, been effected rapidly, and, as in the last case often without any special transitional forms, is well shown by the fact that in the province of Aomori—