

itants of our own continent, their geographical situation was far from being as favourable. They did not lie on the line of march of progressive civilisations based on the use of metals. The colonial and commercial enterprise of a higher culture reached them too late and too abruptly to stimulate them to fruitful self-development or to have any permanent educative value.

Yet there seems some reason to believe that at one point the vague influences of a superior civilisation may have penetrated to their shores. An examination of one object at least in the present collection rather leads to the conclusion that parts of the coast may have been subjected to influences which did not affect the others. The perusal of the earlier writers who describe these regions becomes therefore doubly interesting: for any independent testimony showing that these were localities more highly favoured than the rest, would confirm in some small degree the hypothesis of a culture connection, however remote and indirect that connection may have been.

The particular area to which allusion is made embraces the shores and islands of the Santa Barbara channel. Several authors notice the populousness of these regions at the time of the earliest discoveries and of the later visits of the missionary fathers.

TORQUEMADA¹⁾ draws particular attention to this fact in his account of VIZCAINO'S Voyage, noticing at the same time the ingeniously constructed canoes made of planks which were in use in the channel, and which are themselves of much interest when it is remembered that canoes were not built for some distance to the North, and were not employed on the coasts of the Californian Peninsula.

PALOU²⁾ is also impressed by the density of the population, and concludes by remarking the exceptional vivacity and ingenuity of the people: "son demasiadamente vivos y habiles". It was probably on this part of the coast that CABRILLO saw houses "like those of New Spain"³⁾; and Mr. SCHUMACHER conjectures that the precise spot where these houses were seen may have been Dos Pueblos, 18 miles from Santa Barbara, where large cemeteries were found by him⁴⁾. Mr. SCHUMACHER supposes that those islands, which were inhabited at the time of the discovery, namely the South western group, were peopled from the mainland in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. But whenever the immigration may have occurred, it seems probable that a lively intercourse was carried on between the inhabitants of the mainland and those of the islands. This must itself have proved a stimulus to progress, and a check to the social stagnation which prevailed both to the North and the South. The island of Santa Catalina is said to have been the centre of an active trade in stone implements and cooking vessels, which were exported as far as San Luis Obispo and Monterey. It was here that the "temples" stood which are mentioned by Padre DE LA ASCENSION and by BOSCAN⁵⁾.

Mr. BANCROFT terminates his account of the tribes of the channel by the suggestion that the influences of the Southern civilisation may have extended as far as this point⁶⁾.

¹⁾ Monarquia Indiana. I. 781. Madrid, 1615.

²⁾ Documentos para la Historia de Mexico. II. 361. Mexico, 1857.

³⁾ BANCROFT: The Native Races of the Pacific States. I. 404. London, 1876; quoting introduction to "Sutil y Mexicana".

⁴⁾ SCHUMACHER: Researches in the Kjökkenmöddings of the Coast of Oregon and of the Santa Barbara Islands and adjacent mainland. Department of Interior. U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey. Washington, 1877. Page 52.

⁵⁾ Translated in A. ROBINSON'S "Life in California". New York. 1846 p. 259.

⁶⁾ Op. cit. I. 405.