

years or so B.C., of the first civilizations of Mesopotamia, and concerning which the mere spread of such a civilization to the American continent and its development here indicates another interesting hurdle in the race course of time. I think we can lay down these principles in the matter:— (1) That the forms of culture in the American continent constitute various waves of advent from the Old World¹ and perhaps Polynesia; (2) that they had not greatly changed in the New World, up to the arrival of Europeans; (3) that each pictures for us a whole separate age of culture derived from some once dominant Old World race, whose original habitat, diffusion and relative age might be sought by piecing the American and Asiatic portions of the facts together. It is obvious that the Iroquois peoples, with their palisaded villages, and crops of maize, beans and tobacco, possessed a culture of the "higher barbarian" type which was much in advance of that of the wandering Algonquins and similar tribes, and yet that even the latter possessed institutions (such as the sweat-bath and fine basketry) which indicated a wave of culture that, although simple was still considerably beyond those of for example, the Bushmen and Tasmanians, and at any rate was distinctive and later. I have estimated that the Mohawk tribe, who were pure Hurons, and had come from the Island of Montreal and surrounding country, arrived there from the Huron country between Lakes Huron and Simcoe somewhere about the year fourteen hundred. If conjecturally it might be said that the Hurons of that region and their relatives, the Tobacco Nation, the Senecas, and the Nation-of-a-Speech-a-little-Different, had taken, say, three or four hundred years more to develop their dialectic and other differences out of a common local tribe, this would bring us to say one thousand A.D. And if they and their more distant relatives the Cherokees, whose language was very much further removed, might be conjectured to have met in a common origin, let us say 500 years before—that is to say bringing us back to about 500 A.D.—we would have some dim notion of a relative chronology, admittedly incorrect, but yet illustrating the course of my meaning. Indian scholars differ as to the origin of the Iroquois, who were certainly an intrusive element from the south—probably by way of the west—into the great Algonquin territory, just as the Algonquin peoples were at a very early day intruders into the territory of the Eskimo, the Athabaskans, and possibly other primitive races.

The late Cyrus Thomas held that the Iroquoian stock was merely a continuation of that of the Mound Builders. But wherever they came from in later times, they certainly came and brought their

¹ Sir E. B. Tylor seems to still doubt this, from his article *Anthropology*, in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.