

the Aleuts, and other tribes of the Esquimaux race, place the native land of their fathers. We are confident before hand, from all we have already learned from the mouth of the Indians and Esquimaux in America, that if an honest investigator should take up this question, his evidence could only confirm what we have here stated.

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V.

ASIATIC ORIGIN OF THE ESQUIMAUX  
PROVED BY THE SIMILARITY  
OF CUSTOMS.

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I have not exhausted the question of origin, but I do not press further considerations resting only on the oral testimony of our Tchiglit.

Those which I deduce from the customs, manners, traditions and beliefs of this people, equally concur in proving the immigration of the Esquimaux into America from the west, that is by way of the Pacific and Behring Strait. These will form the subject of two chapters. Whether the Esquimaux emigrated from Upper Asia, from the Middle Kingdom or from Malaysia, is for the future to decide ; but certainly they did not come from the Arctic regions, for all their aspirations are directed to the West-South-West.

In my opinion, if I may be allowed to express any, the Innoit have always been pre-eminently a nautical people, and must have emigrated from Asia by the Aleutian Archipelago. I am led to believe so for these reasons: They always avoid the woods ; they never penetrate to the interior, and are satisfied with a narrow zone on the arid steppes of the sea shores. It was by following the line of coast, and not by crossing the continent, that they emigrated from Behring Strait to the Mackenzie, from the Mackenzie to Hudson's Bay, and from thence into Labrador as far as the Strait of Belle Isle ; whilst others following the Arctic Islands and the

arms of the Frozen Sea reached Greenland on one side and the Siberian shores on the other.\* Even in our days, the Tchiglit winter on the mouths of the Peel and Mackenzie, they never ascend the river beyond Point Separation ; at most they occasionally go as far as the natural ramparts of the strait ( $67^{\circ} 20'$ ). Along the rivers Anderson, MacFarlane and LaRoncière, they do not go beyond  $69^{\circ}$  North latitude. Those of the Copper Mine do not risk themselves beyond Blood Fall. The Esquimaux of Repulse Bay only ascend Great Back River as far as Lake Franklin. The Agguit of Churchill are the bravest. They venture as far as Cariboo Lake by Seal River ; but they have long been taught to rely on the sincerity of the British.

I have travelled in summer and winter in company with the Esquimaux, but I never could persuade them to camp in the fir woods, which would have ensured a comfortable night, pure air and the advantage of warming ourselves at a good fire. No, they must pitch their conical tents on the sand of the barren shore in summer, and in winter lose their time building on the ice one of these huts of hardened snow, already described, in which we had to be satisfied with our natural warmth and with air loaded with impurities. They have acted in this way from the time of their arrival in this dreadful country ; they will probably act in the same way till their complete extinction.

The generality of their costumes, the shape of their utensils, and of their arms, seem to approximate them sometimes to the Polynesians and the Malays, sometimes to the Hindoos and ancient Egyptians. Thus their dances differ entirely from those of their neigh-

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\*In fact the Ostiaks, whose manners, costume and customs recall those of the Innoit, call themselves *Tchutchis*, a name almost identical with those of the *Tchuktechis* and *Tchukatchis*, who are of the Esquimaux race.