of their usages and customs. In order to duly consider this theory in comparison with the first named it will be necessary for want of any real historical sources to examine the Eskimo tribes with regard to every peculiarity of their present state of culture which may throw light upon their obscure origin and wanderings. —

Recent investigations have revealed differences between the Eskimo tribes which indicate, that after having taken their first step to being an exclusively maritime people they have still during their migrations been subjected to further development in the same direction, aiming at adapting them especially for the Arctic coasts as their proper home. The farther we go back towards their supposed original country, the more of what may be considered their original habits we find still preserved. In the general history of culture these variations must certainly appear trifling, but still I believe that a closer examination of them will throw light on the question, how the most desolate and deterring regions of the globe could become peopled. The solution of this problem is facilitated by the fact that the whole Eskimo nation has been less exposed to that contact with other peoples which elsewhere renders such investigations more complicated. These variations are among the Eskimo more exclusively due to natural influences, to which the wanderers were exposed during their struggle for existence and which partly gave rise to new inventions, partly led only to the abolishment of former habits. In some instances also these external influences evidently occasioned decay where the severity of the climate in connection with the isolation and the fewness of inhabitants almost exceeded the bounds of human endurance.

In the pages which follow I will try to show, how from this point of view the peculiarities of the tribes in the different domains of culture agree with the supposition that the original Eskimo inhabited the Interior of Alaska, that apart from the true Eskimo a sidebranch of them in the farthest remote period