

found in Kamtschatka, or the neighbouring Islands? They made answer that, sometimes, they were driven on Shore by easterly Winds, when, for Want of Wood in the Island, they used to take them and make Use of them".

The same element that carries wood one way over the sea can certainly help carry people another way, when a different season contributes to give it another direction.

The question of the possibility of a migration from Asia to America is therefore fully solved. We know it to be not only possible but easy, and we are further certain that it has been accomplished by individuals.

But is such migration probable in the case of large bodies leaving their ancestral homes for the unknown regions of a new world? Why could not the natives of America have originated in the country they now inhabit?

The consideration of a few undeniable facts in connection with the original state of this hemisphere will help us in the solution of these problems. Some of them will even aid us in determining the quarters from which our Indians must have migrated.

IV.

It is generally conceded that there never was a continent so sparsely peopled as was aboriginal America. Was this because of the barrenness of the soil or the severity of the climate? The white races there established at the present day have given an emphatically negative answer to the first part of this question, and, as to the second, the particular lay of the land ensures therefor as much temperate, or warm, as cold climates.

In the name of what principle, then, shall we surmise that, after having been the cradle of the human race, America should have been left almost deserted by its original population who, in that supposition, must have rushed to the dreary wastes of northern Asia and the mountainous regions of its centre, the cold forests and marshes of Europe, or the sun-burnt sands of Africa? Such hypotheses cannot be taken seriously.

A second incontestable fact is that, despite the sparseness of the aboriginal population of the New World, there is not an equivalent part of the earth where so many ethnologically distinct races can be found within any given area. "Choose any tract of the old world where you think most languages spoken, then select an equal space at random in any district of America peopled by native tribes, and the latter will assuredly give a greater number of various tongues".