

their equable and somewhat rainy climate, different alike from that of the interior and of the Atlantic coast regions. So far north does this influence extend that even in Sitka Island in Alaska, which is almost as far north as Cape Farewell in Greenland, there are grand old woods where firs grow to a great size.

The warm ocean current is called by the Japanese the *Kuro Shiwo*, or black current, from the dark tint of its waters. Not only is the *Kuro Shiwo* a carrier of warmth and moisture : some people suppose that it also carried the first human inhabitants to America. Many years ago the people of Sitka noticed one morning a strange-looking craft which had drifted ashore. It was a Japanese junk, dismantled and water-logged, and, strange to say, the ten or twelve Japanese who were found on board were still alive, though nearly dead with exposure and famine. This junk had been dismantled near the coast of Japan, and had drifted helplessly with the current and the steady westerly winds till it reached the American shores. There are traditions that on two former occasions Japanese or Chinese junks have been found farther to the south, carried across the Pacific in the same way. How often such accidents have happened in long-past ages no one can tell.

It is believed by many people that the Indian tribes of North America are of the same race as the early inhabitants of Siberia and Japan. Did the *Kuro Shiwo* bring them ? The story of the sea-borne wreck seems to make it at least possible. It is at any rate certain that this great Pacific current brings to our western shores the perpetual gift of its wonderfully mild and equable climate. The mild West has long been Nature's great experimental garden, where she has tried to show us how large the timber trees of the temperate regions can grow. Now man has followed Nature in his experiments, and is trying to show how this ocean gift can be turned to use in growing other trees, whose excellence is not in their size but in the fruits they yield.