

done, as if the facts were proved when they are mere conjectures that lead astray. So here, while no real fact can be shown to prove that nature has produced its first inhabitants as she produced her flora, a thousand facts of all kinds tell another story and have to be accounted for, that present insuperable difficulties on every hand on this theory. Even the traditions of the people themselves deny this supposition, while their dialects, their customs, their religion, their architecture, and everything about them connect them with the Eastern nations until the proofs become absolutely perfect. As America is really on the highway of the world, when migrations, either large or small, took place they could not but strike America. Accounts of these migrations existed in the East and in Europe before the time of Columbus, with some of which accounts probably he was familiar before he entered on his enterprise. Shortly I may say, Phœnicians before our era most likely came across the Atlantic and Finlanders by Iceland and Greenland, although on our western and northern coasts the migrations were from China and Japan, and especially in North America from Siberia; but, as I would classify the races of mankind, all of them belong ing for the most part to the ancient Scythians or as we now term them Tartars and Mongolians. Hence it would follow that the Indian languages or dialects would be closely related to the Mongolian stem of languages as I have pointed out in my book, "Twenty years on the Saskatchewan," by giving illustrations of words that are the same, the names of places and countries on both continents being very similar. Thus, "calumet," a pipe, is Chinese for the same instrument in one of the southern dialects of China, and I think the designation of our Cree language comes from the Calmuck word "Crimea," on the Caspian Sea. These Calmucks gave the name "Siberia" to Eastern Russia (Cree, "sepe") and I should not be surprised if our "Slave Lake" were only a local corruption of the Russian word "Slav" (Slavonian) which would not only show the close affinity of languages but also the close connection of Siberia with America. At first and superficially the connection of these languages is not apparent. The practised philologist alone traces the mental conditions out of which sounds come, and observes how the vowels run into one another and the consonants change and new words are formed; he looks deeper and traces the underlying unity of the American dialects and joins them with the great stem system of thought and speech we call Mongolian. Scholars like Humboldt, Foster and Dr. Dawson have done this with great results.

As for the religious and other beliefs of our Northwestern Indians, they are greatly things of the past: the people have been, more than they know, impressed by the influences around them and the ideas of by-gone days