

psychophysics into the domain of intelligence. And when, in the fulness of time, the matured bud opened and unfolded itself to splendid flower, in the late investigations of anthropology and ethnology, the technical helps to meet the practical necessities had not advanced *pari passu*, and neither were the museums ready, nor were there at hand the means to procure from all quarters the necessary collections.

We may here repeat words used in an address delivered at Berlin, in April, 1882, before the Anthropological Society:*

"In a work published on my return from my last voyage (1880), I gave an account of a visit to Oregon, and of my observations there. These, I confess, have since left me no rest from the anxious desire to know what is the condition of the bordering tribes further to the north. The little—far too little—that we know of them goes to show that, as from the earliest times they have provoked curiosity, so now they should fix our most attentive observation; and so much the more distressing is it to me to see the space which they should fill in our ethnological collections left a mere blank. What has been found here and there in American museums only makes more pitiable by contrast the poverty of those of Europe; and the sporadic specimens met with here and there are rather from the outlying circumference of the region than from its proper heart. One cause of this lay in the difficulty of access; but this, on the other hand, held out the hope of better protection from premature injury.

"But in this age of steamboats and telegraphs nothing can be counted on with certainty, and after the cession of Russian America to the 'go-ahead Yankees,' it was easy to foresee that these lands would not long remain undisturbed in their ancient seclusion. The result was what might have been expected. We hear that crowds of tourists are swarming into the country, buying up the last relics of the natives to scatter and traffic as *curios*, when they should be stored in museums as stones wherewith to build up the future science. As in other lands, the natives, at the moment of their contact with civilization, seem struck with a fatal blight, and rapidly melt away—in regard to their psychical peculiarities, at all events; and already the native manufactures, fashioned to suit this new market, begin to lose their original character, which seems to be decomposed by the influence of new ideas and new purposes. All the latest reports are to the same effect; and of the same tenor are the answers elicited by correspondence with the most trustworthy authorities on the spot. Here, therefore, in the next few years, will be decided the question of being or not being for the scientific existence of a portion of the human family whose area of territory embraces about nine thousand square [German] miles, or, in a more extended application, about thirty thousand.

"Such catastrophes may make no impression upon those who dwell at a distance and are unfamiliar with ethnological studies; but at a later time, when the irremediable loss is realized in all its magnitude, it will be seen to have a tragic character that cannot be exaggerated. In truth, for one who thoroughly conceives what such a loss is, words are too weak to express the feelings aroused by the perception of this imminent peril with the consciousness of absolute impotence to avert it."

*V. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, vol. xiv., page 288.