

continent left a northern fringe to occupy country not further south perhaps than the southern tributaries of the Saskatchewan or the northern tributaries of the Missouri and a disabled remnant to continue to occupy the Aleutian Islands, and there learn that which was to preserve their race when they rejoined their companions and were forced northward from these homes to their present habitat: hard pressed by the tribes, which having increased, multiplied and grown strong in the warmer portions of the continent, began those incessant, interminable wars which the discoverers succeeding Columbus found everywhere along the eastern coast, and later explorers found extending to the heart of the continent, they would naturally seek refuge northward by the rivers of the arctic watershed in the bark and wooden canoes which are so like, in form at least, the skin boats which the Russian navigators, Behring, Spangenberg and Tschivikin found in use by the then occupants of the Aleutian Islands. We can easily understand if we accept this theory of the colonization of the arctic shores of this continent, how the bark, and even wood canoe would have to give place to the light skin boat when the northern limit of wood had been reached and passed, and how gladly a hard pressed tribe fleeing for their lives would, if accustomed to the use of boats, seek to at once reach a limit where they could not be followed; hence the occupation of the arctic coast as a haven of safety and where the arts of the Aleutian islanders could be exercised to procure that abundance of food which, till the white man came, filled the caches and storehouses of the Eskimo nearly everywhere along this extended coast line.

If we accept this theory there still remains the question as to whether this hejira took place down one or many of the rivers flowing into the Arctic Sea; and though not important, there are reasonable grounds for supposing that it took place down two at least, or three perhaps, of the Canadian arctic rivers, although one, indeed, of the rivers of Alaska would offer some of the facilities afforded by the others farther east.

Passing from the region of conjecture, we come to the present condition of, and the future possibilities of this interesting people. When they became, on the 15th of July, 1870, wards of our government, the north, western and eastern shores of Hudson's Bay was occupied by Eskimo to whom the whale, seal and walrus hunt afforded plenty to supplement their land hunt, salmon and other fisheries and their surplus of whalebone, train oil, walrus tusks, white bear, fox and wolf skins were bought by Hudson's Bay traders sent from Churchill on one side and from Moose Factory on the other side of the bay. That devoted missionary, the late Bishop of Moosinee, had already been able at intervals to preach the gospel of Christ and the truth as it is in Jesus had been told, when and where they could be reached, to the Eskimo on the west shore as well. Whales, walrus and seals were found in numbers, and a fair field seemed open for that kind of domestication and civilization which had been effected by the Moravian brethren on the Labrador coast, and similar successes might have rewarded the efforts which were being made by the great church mission societies of England, but, alas, when was the greed of the white man stayed by the consideration of the spiritual or temporal welfare of any portion of the Indian race! The most profitable kind of whales had gradually been driven or exterminated from off the coast from Newfoundland to Hudson's Straits, and the remnant had sought refuge with their kind in Hudson's Bay, where they were taken occasionally when they could be attacked by the Eskimo near the shore, but they were still in numbers, however, which gave them the chance of affording for these Indians a permanent supply and a continuance of this valuable species in these waters, but American and other whalers followed them and when it was