

THE CANADIAN JOURNAL.

NEW SERIES.

No. LXXII.—AUGUST, 1870.

THE NATIVE TRIBES OF POLYNESIA.

Paper read before the Canadian Institute, Toronto, March 12th, 1870.

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The following remarks must necessarily fall far short of any thing like a comprehensive summary of the leading features observable among the natives of Polynesia. The most that I can hope to accomplish in the brief space of a paper of this kind, is to note some of the most prominent matters that have fallen under my own observation, and to set forth some of the conclusions to which I have been led as to the future of the tribes under consideration.

Under the term Polynesia or Oceanica I would include all the islands that lie between the 100th degree of west and the 125th degree of east longitude, and between the 40th degree of south latitude and the 30th degree of north latitude. We have here a large area occupied by various tribes of the Malay race, differing much from each other, but all retaining very marked evidence of a common origin. My personal knowledge of them is chiefly limited—though not entirely—to the islands of Tasmania, Australia, New Zealand, the Fijis and the Navigator groups; and it is to these, and especially to the first named, that I shall ask your attention.

I need not remind members of this society that the Tasmanians are now extinct, the last of the tribes having died in 1869. I first met with them in 1853, and when I saw them last, in 1855, they numbered only sixteen. The time had passed then for making inquiries which could be of much value from an anthropological point of view. They