

unbroken as we proceed backward in time. Or, to put the matter in another shape, there never was known to history a day when the two continents were not intimately associated. The evidences of the past seem to confirm the opinion that as we go backward in time the geographic conditions were more favorable and the contact more intimate.

In conclusion, the author has not here undertaken to do more than to clear the way for a specific study of the civilizations of America and those of eastern Asia.

Such a study will require a great deal of patient inquiry on the part of students cooperating systematically and scrupulously only to know the truth. The investigations of Dr. Walter Hough show that the fire drill, consisting of a vertical revolving shaft and a horizontal hearth piece, exists uninterruptedly from Australia to Tierra del Fuego, and that besides this common apparatus, on the contrary, in the Malay area, have also been invented the fire plow, the fire saw, and the fire syringe. Wherever the better modes of fire making have superseded, as in Japan, the carpenter goes on boring holes with reciprocating motion between his palms.

Dr. Hough's studies in plate armor point to its existence in the entire stretch from Japan to the Columbia. If anyone will study carefully Von Schrenk's *Reisen und Forschungen im Amur-Lande*, third volume, and compare the figures and plates with similar illustrations from the Aleutian Islands or east Greenland, he will at every turn be arrested by seemingly useless similarities. The curious ivory ornaments on the sea otter hunter's wooden hat, made at great cost, are only explained by the patterns cut from bark and attached to their clothing. The same odd fashion is in full play in east Greenland. The harpoon of the east Greenlander and the central Eskimo, with line hole through the toggle head effected by two diagonal holes bored in the flat side, is almost precisely that of the Gihak. The canoe of bark pointed at both ends below the water line is identical on the Amur and the Kootenay, and so on.

The author protests against closing the door of investigation peremptorily, believing that it is the privilege of all to open any question anew. He desires to lay aside for the present any arguments relying upon continents that have disappeared, upon voyages across the profound sea without food or motive, upon the accidental stranding of junks, or upon the aimless wandering of lost tribes. These may all have entered into the problem of the aboriginal life of America. They are historical and geological questions and must be decided by the methods of these two sciences. It is here essayed to show that when the continent of America was peopled, it was done by men and women purposely engaged in what all sensible people are now doing, namely, trying to get all the enjoyment possible out of life for their efforts, and that the present condition of the earth and of peoples offers all the opportunity necessary for such peopling.