

and other northeastern Asiatics and the native Americans of the Far Northwest. Sir George Simpson is a witness to this fact when he writes: "While strolling about, I observed in the brook a number of baskets and weirs for taking fish, such as I had seen on the Columbia and in New Caledonia".¹

The contrivances are, indeed, so much like not only those used by the Indians of those regions, but also those resorted to by my former charge, that Bush and myself described them in exactly the same terms, viz. as "long, funnel-shaped baskets", at a time when I was not even aware of the existence of the former's book!²

The American traveller further remarks: "This kind of trap I afterward found in use among nearly all the tribes from the Amoor to the Arctic".

If I mistake not, the reader must by this time concede that there is a wonderful identity between the technology of the American and Asiatic tribes. But this is not all.

VIII.

In Asia, no less than in America, it is chiefly salmon which is the object of the fishing industry. The way it is cured is identical on either side of the Aleutian Islands. In the words of George Kennan, it is "cut open, cleaned and boned by the women with the greatest skill and celerity, and hung in long rows upon horizontal poles to dry".³

Apropos of fish and fishing, a remark of Wrangell's, which that explorer applies to the natives of the Lower Kolyma, recalls a foible of the Déné gourmet: his inordinate liking for fish-roe. "As an occasional delicacy", he writes, "they have baked cakes of fish-roe".⁴

The natives here referred to are the Yakuts. Since those nomads are nothing else than an offshoot of the great Tatar race,⁵ it may not be out of place to recall in this connection analogies between the latter while "at table" and the North American Indians, especially those of the Far Northwest.

In the first place, both people wash themselves in exactly the same characteristic way, that is, by filling their mouth with water and then

¹ "An Overland Journey", vol. II, p. 348 of English edition. New Caledonia was to the early Hudson's Bay Company traders what is now called British Columbia minus the territory south of the Thompson River.

² Bush, *op. cit.*, p. 172; Morice, "Notes . . . On the Western Dénés", p. 84.

³ "Tent Life in Siberia", p. 154.

⁴ "Narrative of an Expedition to the Polar Sea", p. 75.

⁵ Wrangell, *op. cit.*, pp. 23, 171; Ledyard, "Life and Travels", p. 280; P. Dobell, "Travels", Vol. II, pp. 13, 111.