

west of Siberia to the north of the peninsula of Kamtschatka, to the centre of which certain tribes extend. Their languages are allied with the Kamtchatdale, Corean, Aino, Japanese, and Loochoo, and partake more or less of a Mongolian character, being, however, well differentiated from any Ural-Altaic division such as the Ugrian, Tartar, Mongol or Tungus. It is with these Koriaks that I find good evidence for associating the Cherokee-Choctaw confederacy.

In the first place identity of name, although in itself apt to be fallacious, may, as in the case of the Tungus-Tinneh connection, lead to truth. The Koriaks exist in two great divisions, a northern, known as the Tchuktchi, and a southern, the Koriaks proper or Koraeki. The former call themselves Tshekto, men or people, and they are the original Choctaws; the latter, who bear the name Koraeki, are the parent stock of the Cherokees. This looks so exceedingly plain that the question may be asked why was it not discovered before. The answer seems to be, that investigators have been so long theorizing and refining that they managed to overlook plain facts lying upon the surface. Koriaks in Alaska have been looked for, but Tchuktchis in Tennessee and Mississippi would have been regarded as very much out of place. The Koriaks are of good stature, with features more pleasing and prominent than the Mongol. Dr. Latham mentions "their general resemblance in respect to physical conformation to the American Indians." They are warlike and independent, and have encroached upon the Yukagirs and Kamtchatdales, as the Choctaws and Cherokees did upon the southern tribes of the United States. Abernethy states that among the Koriaks the mothers give, as they imagine, a decorous form to their children when infants by applying three boards, one on the top to give them a flat head, and one on each side to give them a sharp forehead." This is the Choctaw process of which Catlin speaks. Sauer relates that the Tchuktchis had a game resembling "prisoner's bars," and at the same time mentions the facility with which they threw stones from a kind of sling. The game popularly known as Lacrosse, common to the Choctaws and Iroquois, must, I think, be referred to, and I regret that I have no work treating fully of Koriak manners and customs by which this may be confirmed.* The Tchuktchis and the Choctaws are alike fond of such athletic sports as

* A game identical with our American Lacrosse is played in Japan. See Wood's *Uncivilized Races*.