

ten the Melanocroi and the Xanthocroi of Europe's ethnological classification.

Here, undoubtedly, as well as in Europe and Asia, extreme diversities have been modified ; but from the first these differences must have extended over a narrower range on the American continent than that which finds such curious illustration in the ancient sculpture and paintings of the Nile valley. The baso-relievos of Yucatan, the terra cottas of Mexico, and the pottery of Peru, furnish analogous evidence of considerable diversity of type among the prehistoric, as well as the historic and civilized races of the New World. Nevertheless, after the fullest recognition of all that such evidence indicates, the fact remains that great as is the divergence of the Eskimo from the Mexican, or the Peruvian from the Patagonian, the difference becomes almost insignificant in comparison with that which distinguishes the Aryan Hindu from the Andaman Islander, the Arab from the Chinese, or the insular Malay from the Negritto. Yet all of those pertain to a continent which is only separated from our own by Behring Strait. So noticeable indeed is the prevailing correspondence in ethnical characteristics among the various races of this continent, that the elements of diversity were long overlooked, even by acute scientific observers. Malte Brun affirmed as the result of a long course of observation, "that the Americans, whatever their origin may be, constitute at the present day a race essentially different from the rest of mankind." A more notable authority, possessed alike of rare capacity for accurate discrimination, and of opportunity for extended personal observation,—the distinguished scientific traveller, Humboldt,—remarked in the preface to his "Researches :—" "The nations of America, except those which border the polar circle, form a single race, characterized by the formation of the skull, the color of the skin, the extreme thinness of the beard, and the straight glossy hair."

Until very recent years this was accepted as no less indisputable than any axiom of Euclid. American ethnologists were agreed as to the predominance of one ethnical type throughout the whole western hemisphere ; while those of Europe, with rarer opportunities for personal observation, were predisposed by all the narratives of early voyagers to accept the conclusion that the man of the New World was a well-defined variety, if not a distinct species, of the genus *Homo*. Prichard, Lawrence, Wiseman,