

Japanese stone implements are identical with the American in technique and strikingly similar in shape. Even the æsthetic forms are wrought in precisely the same manner. It is well known that several waves of aboriginal occupation preceded the present Mongol dynasty in China, and students are waiting with interest to know more about them and the paths by which they entered the celestial domain.

#### XI.—RELIGION AND FOLKLORE.

I think that all American myths point to northern origin. They are filled with stories of the sea; but there is little ground now, in the infancy of the science of folklore and mythology, upon which to build theories.

I mention in passing the Easter Island images, the New Zealand and other Polynesian wood carvings, and the general suggestion of the Northwest totem devices in the Japanese areas.<sup>1</sup>

Father Morice says that the western Déné about Stuart Lake, in British Columbia, have a tradition that "days were formerly so very short that sewing the edge of a muskrat skin was all that one woman could do between sunrise and sunset."<sup>2</sup> Boas says that the Kwakiutl on the Pacific coast of British Columbia tell of a place where the sun does not shine, where there are no trees, and where people ride in boats made of skins. These people tell of a place where the trees are all hollow in the middle so that they carry water in the trunks. As a matter of fact, though it may not count for much, the same tribe make gashes in a plank and convert it into a box with invisible joints precisely as the Chinese work in bamboo.

On the other hand, no northern tribe has the slightest conception that they have relatives in the south.

Boas, who has studied the west coast myths more than anyone else, points to their Asiatic origin.

#### XII.—THE TESTIMONY OF ETHNOGRAPHERS AND OTHERS.

Finally, and I do not think that such cumulative evidence is to be despised, all intelligent travelers are struck with the similarities existing between our west coast Indians and existing eastern Asiatics. It is true that those who have noted these resemblances have resorted to untenable theories to account for them, but false theory and good empiric data are not incompatible. It is well known that our Eskimo have peopled a portion of northeastern Asia, following the dominating instinct for aliment and comfort. The proposition I wish to defend is that this close connection between the two continents has existed for thousands of years, during which the contact between western America and eastern Asia was more and more close and extended and

<sup>1</sup>Cf. J. G. Frazer, *Totemism*, Edinb., 1887, Black.

<sup>2</sup>Tr. Canad. Inst., Toronto, 1894, IV, page 12.