

Tartar, or Japanese,—not even the segregated yet resembling races of the Pacific and the isles of the Indian Ocean, however approximating in some of their physical traits,—that we behold. There is something more fixed, more homogeneous, more indigenous, more ethnic, than these recited varieties of the human race present.

On the discovery of the race, as represented by the Caribs of the West Indies, in 1492, Columbus was so struck with the general resemblance of their physiological traits to those of the East Indians, or Hindoos, that he at once called them *Indians*. All subsequent observers in that area have concurred generally with him in this respect. Such has also been the observation in North America. Ninety-two years after the discovery, that is, in 1584, when the first ships sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh, under his commission from Queen Elizabeth, reached the Virginia coasts, they landed among a generic family of the red men, differing in language wholly from the Caribs, but whose physical type was nevertheless essentially the same. The stock family found in Virginia has since become very well known to us under the generic cognomen of Algonkins. Wherever examined, between the original landings at Ocoquan and Roanoke and the south capes of the St. Lawrence, they have revealed the same general physiology. The most important and uniform physical traits of the Indian are,—

The hair coarse, black, glossy, and long, but always straight, never wavy; beard scanty;

Eyes small and black, somewhat deep-set, always horizontal;

Eyebrows narrow, arched, and black; skin thinner, softer, and smoother than in the white races;

Cheek-bones and nose prominent, the latter often long and aquiline;

Color copper or cinnamon-brown, except the Seminoles, who are olive-brown, and the Mandans of Missouri, who are fair or whitish.

Two qualities are common to all these manifold varieties,—viz., black hair and polysynthetic speech. Fulness or lankness of muscle, height or shortness of stature, and weakness or vigor of vitality may be considered as the effects of peculiarities of food and climate. But the traits that preside over and give character to the muscular mass show themselves as clearly in the well-fed Osage and Dakota and the stately Algonkin as in the fish- and rabbit-fed *Gens de Terre* (Muskigo) on the confines of Canada, or in the root-eating Shoshone of the Rocky Mountain.<sup>1</sup>

As a race, there never was one more impracticable; more bent on a nameless principle of *tribality*; more averse to combinations for their general good; more deaf to the voice of instruction. They appear on this continent to have trampled

<sup>1</sup> In a series of experiments devoted to the hair, made with the microscope, Mr. Peter A. Browne, of Philadelphia, has demonstrated three primary species of the hair and hairy tissue, or wool, of the human head, as shown by the researches respecting the Anglo-Saxon, Indian, and Negro races. These experiments, which appear to have been conducted with scientific and philosophical care, denote the structure and organization of each of these species to be peculiar. They are denominated, in the order above stated, cylindrical or round, oval, and eccentrically elliptical or flat. The Indian hair employed in these experiments was the Choctaw.