

pipe-stone quarries, are numerous, and among the Sioux give rise to many strange ceremonies they practise at the Red pipe-stone quarry on the Coteau des Prairies.

Of colonization before the discovery of the continent by Columbus—of ante-Columbian traces—the author states “that if any such did precede Columbus in his great discovery, they turned their visit to no permanent account, and have left no memorials of the premature glimpse of the Western Hemisphere.” The chapters on the “THE AMERICAN CRANIAL TYPE” and “ARTIFICIAL CRANIAL DISTORTION” occupy a considerable portion of the second volume. It is satisfactory to have the author’s assurance that the proof that the American man is in any sense separated by essential physical differences from all other nations or races, fails on minute examination.

The fate of the Indian race in America may be summed up in two words, “absorption and extinction.” “If,” says Dr. Wilson, “the survivors can be protected against personal wrong; and, so far as wise policy and a generous statesmanship can accomplish it, the Indian be admitted to an equal share with the intruding colonists, in all the advantages of progressive civilization: then we may look with satisfaction on the close of that long night of the Western World, in which it has given birth to no science or no philosophy, no moral teaching that has endured; and hail the dawn of centuries in which the states and empires of the West are to claim their place in the world’s commonwealth of nations, and bear their part in the accelerated progress of the human race.”

With regard to the first peopling of America, the author considers that idea which best harmonizes with the imperfect evidence adduced, conceives the earliest current of population destined for the New World to have spread through the Islands of the Pacific. This was followed by an Atlantic oceanic migration, by the Canaries, Madeira, and the Azores, to the Antilles, and last of all Behring’s Straits and the North Pacific Islands may have become the highway for a northern migration, although the most obvious traces rather indicate that the migration through Behring’s Straits was from America to the Continent from which its elements were originally derived.

Although these volumes contain a great variety of interesting information respecting the Red Indian of America, yet they cannot be said to embody much that is really new. Dr. Wilson’s opportunities have not yet brought him into actual contact with the “Wild Forest Man.” His travels, he tells us, have not extended beyond Lake Superior, where the Indian has for a hundred years been more or less in contact with the White Man, hence his illustrations of really savage Indian life and arts, are all second hand, and as the authorities he quotes may have been men of widely different observant powers, it is probable that much has yet to be learned respecting this interesting race. In some instances we notice so-called “characteristics,” which are entirely new to us and opposed to some experience in these matters—such for instance as the habit of Indians always exhaling the smoke of tobacco through their nostrils (page 44, vol. ii). The Indians of the Mackenzie River valley understood the art of weaving vessels of watap (the divided roots of the spruce fir,) in Sir Alexander Mackenzie’s time, when first seen by white men. Their vegetable vessels held from two to six gallons, (Journal