

of primitive peoples, I mean that excessive fondness for alcoholic drinks which, when not curbed by religious motives or the fear of the secular arm, plays such havoc among those races and succeeds so well in thinning out their ranks. To the introduction of Christianity must, no doubt, be ascribed the fact that the Carrier women have practically remained irreproachable on that score, while it would seem as if their Aino sisters had, in that respect, as little control as their fellow men over their animal appetites.

Such are some of the similarities which exist between the oriental Ainos and our own American aborigines.

Were we in a position to push further our investigations, we would probably find some more traits of resemblance between the two races. On the other hand, limited as our knowledge of one of them is, a brief comparison of the two sociologies soon discloses a few points of contrast which, I am bound to say, are all in favor of the Ainos.

To begin with the material dissimilarities, we have already seen that the dwellings of the latter have windows, while the Carrier or Babine hut has none, the chinks in the walls serving the same purpose. Even alcoves are not unknown among the Japanese savages, which are an unheard of luxury with our Indians, unless we choose to consider as their equivalents the sudatory-like little huts within the family lodge wherein dwell the daughters of the so-called "noblemen", at the time of their menstrual course.

Mats, again, which are quite common among the Coast tribes of American aborigines, are never to be seen here, though they are a useful adjunct in the Aino home.

From a purely sociological standpoint, a few particularities will also strike us as proper to the oriental race. First of all, the attention paid to the place of guests and others in the house is constant among the Ainos, but observed only on festival occasions by the Carriers and the Babines. The former have a distinct worship with a window sacred thereto, while the latter originally knew of no other form of cult than the wildest shamanism or nature worship.