

"On p. 10, of the catalogue is appended the following remark: 'As to the origin of the stone weapons and utensils, the Thlinkets can give no other information but that they are very old.' The specimens bear now the numbers 2303 and 2316."

Prof. Meyer then proceeds to describe in detail the two implements above referred to. The colours of the first (No. 2303) are said to be, by Radde's scale, grass-green, yellow-green, and yellow-green-grey; the specific gravity 2.96. The second and larger implement (No. 2316) is grass-green, yellow-green-grey, and green-grey; the specific gravity, 2.92, and the hardness less than usual in nephrite, owing to an incipient decomposition, which is clearly apparent on microscopical examination. Under the microscope, the mineral is found to possess a very peculiar netted fibrous structure, which is minutely described by Prof. Arzruni. It is said to resemble closely a nephrite from the Kitoj River in Siberia.

An analysis by Dr. Frenzel of this specimen (No. 2316) shews it to be a nephrite, with large proportions of alumina and water. An analysis of a specimen from Point Barrow, also quoted, clearly resembles the last, but contains less alumina and water.

"As already stated, nephrite axes which were known to come from North America, have been previously believed to have originally been derived from Asia; they were assumed to be the first stage of the supposed advance of nephrite eastward. Prof. Fischer was not the only one to contend for this view till even quite lately, as seen in particular in the XVth Vol. of 'Archiv. für Anthropologie,' (1884, p. 164); where it is said that a nephrite borer from the Mackenzie River agrees very well with the Siberian nephrite, and that it would therefore be difficult to prove that the rough material is of North American origin, a view which after the above communication is now indefensible. Nordenskiöld has also in his work 'The Voyage of the Vega' broken a lance for the same contention.* In the

* Prof. T. W. Putnam in a communication to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1868 still maintains the probable Asiatic origin of jadeite objects found in Central America.