

and their languages, like the Latin nations of southern Europe, from a common ancestry? The clues which will lead us to the solution of these questions must again be sought in the evidence of language, and generally in minute and careful comparison of words and grammatical forms; but this evidence may be reinforced by that of tradition, which, when it exists, will usually be found to correspond with that of language. The Hindoo tradition, which makes the Aryans enter India from the northwest in prehistoric times, and gradually overrun the northern portion of the peninsula, accords strictly, as every scholar knows, with the deductions drawn from the study of the languages of that region. So, too, the Polynesian race, which peopled the groups of the Pacific Ocean, from the Sandwich Islands on the north to New Zealand on the south, and from Easter Island in the east to the Deceyster Group, four thousand miles distant in the west, is traced back, by the joint evidence of language and tradition, to a starting point or center of migration in the Samoan or Navigator Islands, near the western limit of this vast region. Though the emigration which peopled some of the eastern groups must have taken place at least three thousand years ago, the fact of its occurrence is unquestionable. This instance is made the more notable by the circumstance that neither the source nor the direction of the migration is such as merely geographical considerations would have led us to conjecture. New Zealand and the Sandwich Islands are by far the largest groups of Polynesia. When first known to Europeans, each of these groups contained a much greater population than the mother group of Samoa. From either of them the usual course of winds and currents would carry a fleet of canoes to the other islands of Polynesia far more readily than from the Navigator Islands, whence the voyager must make his way to the eastern groups directly in the teeth of the trade-winds. These considerations, however, have had no weight in the minds of ethnologists against the decisive test of language, reinforced, as it is, by the evidence of native tradition.

In studying the languages of this continent we are naturally led to inquire how far we can apply these tests of language and tradition in tracing the connection and migration of the Indian tribes. It is evident at once that in making such inquiries we are confined in each case to tribes speaking languages of the same stock. For though there is, unquestionably, a certain general congruity of structure among Indian languages of different stocks, sufficient to strengthen the common opinion, derived from physical and mental resemblances, which classes the people who speak them in one race, yet this con-