

number of individuals, it follows that they occupied a restricted locality. This particular locality may have been on the east coast or on the west coast, may have been north or south. The North American Indian has been on this hemisphere such a length of time that, branching out from this little colony in a single locality by ordinary procreation, he has so increased in numbers that at the time of the discovery by Columbus, it is estimated that there were from five to eleven millions.

From the single locality which the small colony originally inhabited, it had also extended itself territorially, and had populated pretty equally the hemisphere from the Arctic Circle on the north to Terra del Fuego on the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

The first point is, that this increase in number, and this extension in territory, required a long period of time, and are proofs of the antiquity of the race.

The confusion of tongues and increase in the number of languages among the Indians is another evidence of their antiquity. When the first colony of Indians appeared, whether by evolution or migration, they could have spoken practically but one language. Suppose, in case of migration, that they spoke many languages prior to their coming together on these, to them, foreign shores, after their arrival they would inevitably speak but one language. They would invent a common language if none existed. This would not be difficult for a colony small in numbers. With this for a starting point, we may see what they have done. They spread themselves up and down the valleys, across the rivers, and over the mountains. While at first they may have retained their communication with the parent colony and kept up their original language, it continued only while those relations were maintained. When the offspring got so far distant that they did not visit the parent colony and had no relation with its members, they invented their own languages, different from those of their ancestors, and this continued until they became a parent colony, sending forth younger colonies, which, in their turn, cut off their relations and invented new languages. So they went from east to west, north to south. This continued for such a great length of time that, not only had they come at the time of the discovery to occupy the entire hemisphere, but had also established (according to the investigations of the Bureau of Ethnology) not less than two hundred separate languages, fifty-two of which belonged to North America alone, with dialects and variations innumerable. If we accept these facts (and it appears as though we must), the corollary of the immensity of the time is inevitable.

The different cultures among the aborigines or Indians of the Western Hemisphere in different localities or portions of the country point to the same general conclusion. Over all Canada and the United States, except the extreme southwest, the culture, or rather the sav-