

landed already peopled, as must certainly have been the case, they would (if not massacred on landing) have been speedily absorbed in that earlier population, leaving no impression that could now be traced.

Our reply, therefore, to the question cited from the programme must be that no grammatical affinities, indicating a connection between the Polynesian idioms and those of western America, have yet been discovered. It is proper to add that a few isolated languages of the American coast are known, such as the Xinca of Guatemala, the Mangué of Nicaragua, and the Guaymi of Panama, of which the vocabularies that we have do not comprise the pronouns. Of these languages all that can be said is that the words which we possess in them are totally unlike the corresponding Polynesian words. On the whole, it may be affirmed, that so far as our present knowledge extends, the theory which would trace the origin of the population of America, or any portion of it, to the Polynesian race, finds no countenance in the testimony of language, and is made extremely improbable by the evidence of the very recent appearance of that race in the eastern Pacific islands.