

who classes it with the Mongolian family, says that it still exists in the Basques as well as in the Indians of North America.

In an essay on "Indian Migrations, as evidenced by Language", read at the Montreal Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Mr. Hale cites Sir William Dawson's work as confirming his belief in the kinship between the Iberians and the Americans. "It will be noticed", he writes, "that the evidence of language and to some extent of tradition leads to the conclusion that the course of migration of the Indian tribes has been from the Atlantic coast westward and southward. The Huron-Iroquois tribes had their pristine seat on the lower St. Lawrence. The traditions of the Algonquin seem to point to Hudson Bay and the coast of Labrador. The Dakota stock had its older branch east of the Alleghanies, and possibly (if the Catawba nation shall be proved to be of that stock) on the Carolina coast. Philologists are well aware that there is nothing in the language of the American Indians to favor the conjecture (for it is nothing else) which derives the race from eastern Asia, but in western Europe one community is known to exist, speaking a language which in its general structure manifests a near likeness to the Indian tongue. Alone of all the races of the old continent, the Basques or Euskarians of northern Spain and south-western France have a speech of that highly complex and polysynthetic character which distinguishes the American languages. There is not, indeed, any such positive similarity, in words or grammar, as would prove a direct affiliation. The likeness is merely in the general cast and mould of speech; but this likeness is so marked as to have awakened much attention. If the scholars who have noticed it had been aware of the facts now adduced with regard to the course of migration on this continent, they would probably have been led to the conclusion that this similarity in the type of speech was an evidence of the unity of race. There seems reason to believe that Europe, at least in its central and western portions, was occupied in early times by a race having many of the characteristics, physical and mental, of the American aborigines. The evidences which lead to this conclusion are well set forth in Dr. Dawson's recent work on Fossil Men. Of this early European people, by some called the Iberian race who were ultimately overwhelmed by the Aryan emigrants from central Asia, the Basques are the only survivors that have retained their original language; but all the nations of southern Europe, commencing with the Greeks, show in their physical and mental traits a large intermixture of this aboriginal race. As we advance westward, the evidence of this infusion becomes stronger, until in the Celts of France and the British islands, it gives the predominant cast to the character of the people."¹

Mr. Hale goes on to say that this theory alone accounts for the marked contrast between the Aryans of the East and those of the West,—the former being submissive, while with the latter, especially where the so-called Celts predominate, "love of freedom is a passion."²

From the passage above quoted it will be seen that Mr. Hale's theory does not depend for proof on any discovered verbal similitude between Basque and any form of American speech. How vain such comparisons are, it is almost needless to point out. Chance coincidences of sound occur in languages that cannot possibly have any relationship, and even

¹ Note F, Appendix to the Iroquois Book of Rites, pp. 187, 188.

² On this point Mr. Hale's argument is hardly convincing. It is among the fairer northern races in which, the Iberian element is small, that love of independence abounds most.