

making this his headquarters undertook and accomplished two more long voyages. Might not he or some of his companions have visited our shores at this time? At all events while Polynesian migrants were navigating the waters of the Pacific and covering thousands of miles in their course the probability that some of them touched upon our shores and effected settlements there was strong enough to make the matter worthy of investigation and save it from the contempt it has met with at the hands of some Americanists. And again, why so much objection to an Asian origin for some of our northwestern stocks on the part of eastern investigators, who have never studied our western tribes in their own home and who have to rely upon the labours of others for their information concerning them? Major Conder has recently stated in his articles on Central America that hundreds of words in the Central American language are identical in sound and significance with those of Eastern Asia, and has convinced himself of the truth of the Chinese and Japanese accounts in their histories of their voyages in former times to Western America. However this may be, no one can study the Déné language of British Columbia and compare its radicals with those of archaic Chinese and cognate tongues, and not feel a conviction growing in his mind that it is to East Asia that we must look for the origin of some at least of our West American stocks; and when he perceives the marked facial and other physical and psychical resemblances between some of the coast Indians and the Chinese and Japanese resident in our province, he cannot resist the belief that these resemblances are something more than fortuitous accidents. One of the commonest remarks one hears from travellers from the Orient as they pass through our midst is that our Indians are astonishingly like the Asiatics they have left behind; and the observant Kennan in his account of his journey through Siberia¹ has expressed himself thus on this head: "It will be seen from the illustrations that the Kachinski feminine type is distinctly Indian. . . . All of the Kachinski Tatars that we saw in the Minusinsk district if they were dressed in American fashion would be taken in any western State for Indians without hesitation or doubt." If, as we know, the Eskimo have passed from America to Asia along that natural bridge which every year unites Cape Prince of Wales to East Cape, or along that other old-time inter-ethnic highway, the Aleutian Isles, why may not Asian hordes have passed in former times from Asia to this continent by the same lines of travel? That they really did so the marked mongoloid features which characterize so many of our west coast Indians and the linguistic evidence from the Déné and other sources leave no room for doubt.

In treating of the physical characteristics of the British Columbia coast tribes in his second report to the British Association on the Indians of this region, Dr. Boas writes thus: "The habitus of the northern tribes

¹ Siberia and the Exile System, p. 400, Vol. II. George Kennan.