

afterwards rallied against the white colonists; that after a long and wasting war the assailants were victorious; the conquered people were in great part exterminated; the survivors were either incorporated with the conquering tribes or fled southward and found a refuge among the nations which possessed the region lying between the Ohio valley and the Gulf of Mexico; and that this mixture of races has largely modified the language, character, and usages of the Cherokee and Choctaw nations.*

It will be noticed that the evidence of language, and to some extent that 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 Algonkings seem to point to Hudson's Bay and the coast of Labrador. The Dakota stock had its oldest 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 tongues. Alone of all the races of the old continent the Basques or Euskarians of northern Spain and southwestern 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 southern and western portions,—was occupied in early times by a race having many of the

* I am gratified to find that the views here set forth with regard to the character and fate of the Moundbuilders are almost identical with those expressed by Mr M. E. Force, in his excellent paper, entitled "To what Race did the Moundbuilders belong?" read before the *Congrès International des Américanistes*, at Luxembourg, in 1877. The fact that so judicious and experienced an inquirer as Judge Force, after a personal examination of the earthworks, has arrived, on purely archaeological grounds, at the same conclusions to which I have been brought by the independent evidence of tradition and language, must be regarded as affording strong confirmation of the correctness of these conclusions. Mr. J. P. MacLean, in his valuable work on "the Moundbuilders," shows (p. 144) that the strong and skillfully planned line of fortresses raised by the ancient residents of Ohio was plainly erected against an enemy coming from the north, and that the warfare was evidently a long-protracted struggle, ending suddenly in the complete overthrow and destruction or expulsion of the defenders. These facts coincide exactly with the tradition recorded by Cusick.