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ZOOLOGICAL DISQUISITION.

FROM THE COLONNIALE.

The original inhabitants of America shown to be of the same family and lineage with those of Asia; by a process of reasoning not hitherto advanced. By SAMUEL L. MITCHELL, M. D. Professor of Natural History in the University of New-York; in a communication to Dr. Wm. C. CROFT, Esq. President of the New-York Philosophical Society, dated New-York of March 31, 1816.

The view which I took the varieties of the human race, in my course of Natural History, delivered in the University of New-York, differs in so many particulars from that entertained by the great zoologists of the age, that I give you for information, and without delay, a summary of my yesterday's lecture to my class.

I denied in the beginning, the assertions that the American aborigines were of a peculiar constitution, of a race *sui generis*, and of a copper color. All these notions were treated as fanciful and visionary.

The Indians of the two Americas appear to me to be of the same stock and genealogy with the inhabitants of northern and southern Asia. The northern tribes were probably more hardy, ferocious and warlike, than those of the south. The tribes of the lower latitudes seem to have been greater proficients in the arts, particularly of making clothes, clearing the ground and erecting works of defence.

The parallel between the people of America and Asia, affords this important conclusion: that the northern hordes dwelling in the higher latitudes have overpowered the more civilized, though feebler inhabitants of the country situated towards the equator. As the Tartars have overrun China, so the Aztecs subdued Mexico. As the Huns and Avars desolated Italy, so the Chippewas and Iroquois prostrated the populous settlements on both banks of the Ohio.

The surviving race in these terrible conflicts between the different nations of the ancient native residents of North America, is evidently that of the Tartars. This opinion is founded upon four considerations.

1. The similarity of physiognomy and features. His excellency M. Genet, late minister plenipotentiary from France to the United States, is well acquainted with the faces, hues and figures of our Indians and of the Asiatic Tartars; and is perfectly satisfied of their mutual resemblance.—Mons. Cazeaux, consul of France to New-York, has drawn the same conclusion from a careful examination of the native man of North America and Northern Asia.

Mr. Smith, who had been employed, as Josiah Meigs, now commissioner of the land office of the United States, relates, in executing paintings of Tartar visages, for the grand Duke of Tuscany, was so struck with the similarity of their features to those of the Naraganset Indians that he pronounced them members of the same great family of mankind. The anecdote is preserved, with all its circumstances, in the fourteenth volume of the Medical Repository.

Within a few months, I examined over and again seven or eight Chinese sailors, who had assisted in investigating a ship from Macao to New-York.—The thinness of their beards, the bay complexion, the black lank hair, the aspect of the eyes, the contour of the face, and in short, the general external character, induced every person who observed them, to remark how nearly they resembled the Mohogans and Oneidas of New-York.

Sidi Mellimelli, the Tunisian envoy to the United States in 1804, entertained the same opinion, on beholding the Cherokees, Osages and Miami's assembled at the city of Washington, during his residence there. Their Tartar physiognomy struck him in a moment.

2. The affinity of their languages. The late learned and enterprising professor Barton took the lead in this curious enquiry. He collected as many

words as he could from the languages spoken in Asia and America, and he concluded, from the numerous coincidences of sound and signification, that there must have been a common origin.

3. The existence of corresponding customs. I mean at present to state that of shaving away the hair of the scalp, from the fore part and sides of the head, so that nothing is left but a tuft or a lock on the crown.

The custom of smoking the pipe, on solemn occasions, to the four cardinal points of the compass, and to the heavens, and to the earth, is reported, upon the most credible authority, to distinguish equally the hordes of Asiatic Tartars, and the bands of the American Sioux.

4. The kindred nature of the Indian dogs of America and the Siberian dogs of Asia.

The animal that lives with the natives of the two continents, as a dog, is very different from the tame and familiar creature of the same name in Europe. He is either a different species, or of a wide variety of the same species. But the identity of the American and Asiatic cur is evinced by several considerations. Both are mostly white. They have shaggy coats, sharp noses and erect ears.—They are voracious, thievish, and to a considerable degree indomitable.—They steal whenever they can, and sometimes turn against their masters. They are prone to snarl and grin, and they have a howl instead of barking.—They are employed in both hemispheres for labour: such as carrying burdens, drawing sleds over the snow, and the like; being yoked and harnessed for the purpose like horses.

This coincidence of our Indian dog with the *Canis Sibericus*, is a very important fact. The dog, the companion, the friend or the slave of man in all his fortunes and migrations, thus reflects great light upon the history of nations and of their genealogy.

II. The exterminated race in these savage encounters between the nations of North America in ancient days, appears clearly to have been that of the Malays.

The bodies, and shrouds, and clothing of some individuals, have within a few years been discovered in the caverns of sulphure and copperas in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee; their entire and exsiccated condition, has led intelligent gentlemen who have seen them, to call them mummies. They are some of the most memorable of the antiquities that North America contains. The race or nation to which they belonged is extinct but, in preceding ages, occupied the region situated between Lakes Ontario and Erie on the north, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and bounded eastwardly by the Alleghany mountains, and westwardly by the Mississippi river.

That they were similar in their origin and character to the present inhabitants of the Pacific islands and of Austral Asia is argued from various circumstances.

1. The sameness of texture in the plain cloth or matting that envelops mummies, and that which our navigators bring from the Sandwich Islands and the Feegees.

2. The close resemblance there is between the feathery mantles brought now-a-days from the islands of the South Sea, and those wrappers which surround the mummies lately discovered in the western states. The plumes of birds are twisted or tied to the threads, with peculiar skill, and turn water like the back of a duck.

3. Meshes of nets regularly knotted and tied, and formed of a strong and even twine.

4. Mockasons or coverings for the feet, manufactured with remarkable ability from the bark or rind of plants worked into a sort of strong matting.

5. Pieces of antique sculpture, especially of human heads and of some other forms, found where the exterminated tribes had dwelt, resembling the carving at Orabeito, New-Zealand and other places.

6. Works of defence, or fortifications, over spreading the fertile country formerly possessed by these people, who may be supposed capable of constructing works of much greater simplicity than the morais or burial places, and the hippas or fighting stages of the Society Islands.

7. As far as observations have gone, a belief that the shape of the skull and the angle of the face in the mummies correspond with those of the living Malays.

I reject therefore the doctrine taught by the European naturalists, that the man of western America differs materially from the man of eastern Asia.—Had the Robertsons, the Buffens, the Ranals, the De Pawa

and the other speculators, upon the American character and the villagers of the American name possessed the requisite information concerning the hemisphere situated to the west of us, they would have discovered that the inhabitants of vast regions of Asia to the number of many millions, were of the same blood and lineage with the undervalued and despised population of America. The learned Williamson has discussed this point with great ability.

I forbore to go farther than to ascertain by the correspondence already stated, the identity of origin and derivation to the American and Asiatic natives. I avoided the opportunity which this grand conclusion afforded me, of stating that a tribe of savages of the human race, of tracing its colonies westward over the Pacific Ocean, and beyond the sea of Kamacharka, to new settlements, of following the emigrants by land and by water, until they reached Europe and Africa; and lastly, of following adventurers from the former of these sections of the globe, to the plantations and abodes which they found and occupied in America. I had no inclination to oppose the current opinions relative to the place of man's creation and dispersion. I thought it was scarcely worth the while to inform an European, that on coming to America, he had left the new world behind him for the purpose of visiting the old. It ought, nevertheless, to be remarked, that there are many important advantages derived to our reasoning from the present manner of considering the subject. The principles being now established, they will be supported by a further induction of facts and occurrences, and an amount that it is impossible, at this moment, fairly to estimate. And the conclusion of Jefferson, Lason, and others favorable to the greater activity of American population, will be daily reinforced and confirmed.

Having thus given the history of these races of man, spreading so extensively over the globe, I considered the human family under three divisions.

First the Tartary man, comprehending the Tartars, Malays, Chinese, the American Indians of every tribe, Lascars, and other people of the same cast and breed. From these seemed to have proceeded two remarkable varieties, to wit,

Secondly the white man inhabiting naturally the countries in Asia and Europe, situated north of the Mediterranean Sea; and, in the course of his adventures, settling all over the world. Among these, I reckon the Greenlanders and Esquimaux.

Thirdly, the black man, whose proper residence is in the regions south of the Mediterranean, particularly towards the interior of Africa. The people of Papua and Van Dieman's Land, seem to be of this class.

It is generally supposed, and by many able and ingenious men too, that external physical causes, and the combination of circumstances which they call climate, have wrought all these changes in the human form. I do not however, think them capable of explaining the differences which exist among the nations. There is an internal physical cause of the greatest moment, which has scarcely been mentioned. This is the generative influence, if by the act of modelling the constitution in the embryo and fetus, a predisposition to gout, madness, scrofula, and consumption, may be engendered, we may rationally conclude, with the sagacious D'AZARA, that the precreative power may also shape the features, tinge the skin, and give other peculiarities to men.

Yours truly,
SAMUEL L. MITCHELL.

(Notes—not by professor M.)

As to colour, it may be said, there are more than slight shades of difference. We have seen some western Indians of North America nearly as fair as the whites. Humboldt speaks of the Guayquerias at Guimara, as of 'very tall stature, of great muscular strength' and adds, 'the colour of their skin was something between a brown and a copper colour.—Seen at a distance, motionless in their attitudes, and projected on the horizon, they might have been taken for statues of bronze.' This is one of the noblest races of men in Terra Firma. They assume a superiority over the Chaymas and other copper coloured tribes, because their blood is uncontaminated by a mixture which they consider base and ignominious. Notwithstanding the intimate ties which appear to unite the whole of the American nations as belonging to the same race, several tribes do not, the less differ from each other in the height of their stature, and their complexion more or less tawny.

Are there not stronger reasons for believing that three distinct varieties of our species have existed ever since the creation of the human race?

Gen. Wilkinson has announced that his "Memoirs" will be ready for delivery about the 2d of December.

CONGRESS.

MR. JOHNSON'S SPEECH.

Substance of Mr. R. M. Johnson's observations in the House of Representatives, on introducing his motion to inquire into the expediency of repealing the Compensation Law.

Mr. Johnson (of Ky.) said, that he had on all political occasions consulted his best judgment, and he had always voted with a view to promote the interest and support the honor & rights of those who had, by their suffrages given him a place upon the floor of Congress. That he had expressed the sentiments of his constituents, and his own, had generally been applauded and sanctioned by them; that his coincidence of political views and confidence in his wishes for their happiness and prosperity, had left him at liberty to pursue his own course of conduct. That notwithstanding his state of things, he had always believed in the right of instruction; and at any time during his political course, he should have considered himself both honored and bound by the will of his constituents; the nature of the trust implied a duty on the part of the representative, that he will consult the happiness and carry into effect, so far as he knows it, the will of those who elect him.

That, notwithstanding the discontent that had manifested itself in many parts of the U. States, and in his own district, he was left to that course which honor and duty dictated, and that so far as he could infer the will of his constituents, it should have a controlling influence upon his mind; because the want of written instruction did not weaken the binding efficacy of the great fundamental principle to which he alluded. The want of a written impression may, by possibility mislead the best among us; of course that would give a high claim to indulgence. On this subject, he had no doubt he should meet the sanction and the approbation of those honorable and patriotic men, who, notwithstanding all his faults, had continued their confidence in him. Many considerations had entered into his mind in making a motion for a committee to inquire into the expediency of repealing the compensation law. One object was, to gratify that portion of his constituents who were opposed to the measure. He said a portion of his constituents, because he well knew that many, very many of his political friends, were in favor of the measure, both as to mode and amount; some were desirous that an experiment might be made, otherwise illiked the mode, but do not object to the amount, and many other minor differences—but he well knew that they would all either unite or acquiesce in a repeal of the statute; that the public mind might be tranquilized; that the great mass of inflammable matter which was afloat might be decomposed and rendered harmless; that hobby riders may be dismounted, and popularity traps put flat on the surface; for he never intended, if he could make any other shift, to ride the one or set the other. He claimed the indulgence of the House, to explain to them what he intended by his motion. He had heard of a variety of compensation bills, so called, and it was necessary to identify the one he intended to embrace by his motion. He did not intend a repeal of a compensation bill, which gave to members of Congress 1,500 dollars per session, whether extra or the great annual session pointed out by the federal constitution, by which each member could draw as many 1,500 dollars as the sessions in which he served—no such bill can be found upon the journal of the House. He did not intend a repeal of that compensation bill which allowed members of Congress 1500 dollars per annum, whether present during the session, or absent, at home, or elsewhere on their own business. Such compensation law cannot be found in the statute book. He did not intend a repeal of that compensation law which had given the members of Congress six dollars a day until its passage, and then the 1500 dollars. He had nothing to do with such a measure, as no such measure had been sanctioned by Congress. He did not intend a repeal of that compensation law which violated the constitution, for he had never given a vote upon any such measure, although he well knew a rejected amendment to the constitution had been published as a part of that sacred instrument, to induce a belief that avarice had driven Congress from the path of duty. He had nothing to do with these and other compensation bills, so called, which excited only in the visions of fancy, the colorings of party, and the misrepresentations of faction—and these misrepresentations, with other causes, had combined in a manner so powerful and so formidable, to

excite the jealousy of the people. Nothing but a high and exalted degree of patriotism and displeasure against themselves, could have induced them to draw conclusions from public servants, which a new statute, before the law, which gave to members a gross sum of 1500 dollars for services, provided they discharged the duties of a representative otherwise, whether one or two sessions during the course of the year, the six dollars per session law which was the law of the land, and the enforcing clerk; and on a footing, in a pecuniary point of view, of half as much as we give to the clerk of the House; a compensation law which was supported and voted for by both houses of Congress, and signed by the President of the United States; a compensation law, which was acknowledged by every member of the Senate and of the House to be just; if not politic, by taking the 1500 dollars; for he was informed that every member, one from Virginia excepted, had taken the money, which was conclusive evidence that they did not consider it public robbery. And the honorable gentleman from Virginia did not refuse the money because he thought it unjust; for he advocated the measure; upon principle only, he could not agree to embrace the present Congress. The worth of that member was well known to the House; and as to those who had voted against the measure, and had received the compensation, he did not suppose the people of any district would have complained of any such member, who had only taken that which had been allowed other members by law. In justice to himself, to the House, and particularly to the nation, he conceived it his duty thus to distinguish the real from the fictitious compensation laws; for the age of reason had not passed away, and although there may have been a temporary sacrifice of worth and merit, it cannot continue. Mr. Johnson said, such had been the artificial and unnatural excitement against the compensation bill, that a particular friend of his called upon his debtor to discharge a written obligation under hand and seal; upon presenting the note, the debtor demanded of his creditor, whether he was in favor of the compensation bill; and upon being answered in the affirmative, payment was positively refused. This was not all. He had understood of a constable presented himself to the justices of the peace for preferment & promotion, he was called on to know if he was in favor of the compensation bill. If the justice of the peace wanted to be sheriff, he could think of no better expedient than to denounce the compensation bill; and particularly those who offered as candidates to represent counties in the state legislatures, a denunciation of the compensation bill was made a sine qua non. In fact, by these and other means, the poor compensation bill excited more discontent than the alien or sedition laws, the quasi war with France; the internal taxes of 98; the embargo; the late war with Great Britain; the treaty of Ghent or any one measure of the government, from its existence.

Such effects could not naturally result from the measure under consideration, but from the misrepresentation of designing men; and from a misunderstanding of it by the virtuous, the faithful, the honest yeomanry of the country. Mr. J. said, this reminded him of another story; that was told him, of a young gentleman having made known to the father of a beautiful daughter, his wish to visit the house on her account, who demanded of the young man, as a preliminary, whether he was in favor of the compensation bill? This brings me, said Mr. Johnson, to the most natural part of the enquiry—the amount of compensation. If we consider this subject in an abstract or positive point of view, we must take a variety of circumstances into the calculation, and it may be difficult to say, what is the precise sum that should be given. If a married man shall bring his family with him, he will incur an expense greater than to come alone. If a member should come alone to the city of Washington, he incurs less expense than if compelled to bring one servant, or an attendant with him, to aid him on the road, and when at the city, to take from him the trouble of a thousand calls, which would break in upon his time, and render him in a great measure, useless to his constituents; or by paying the same extra attention at the boarding houses. Or the amount of expense may depend upon