

as to trace out the source, or sources of Indian origin, it must be by some process analagous to the one just alluded to.

Most persons who have attempted to solve the enigma of the origin of the aboriginal tribes, have set out with some assumed hypothesis, and then selected from known facts, such only as might be tortured into the support of their favorite theory, while all other facts, bearing upon the question, are thrown aside as inexplicable. This is as unphilosophical as for the naturalist, in his attempt to delineate the structure of a lost species, first to construct a skeleton from his own imagination, and then, by cutting and fitting, work in such of the natural specimens as his ingenuity could make room for, and cast the rest aside as probably belonging to some other species. Instead of this, he studies the elementary principles contained in the few specimens he may have, and from these principles he proceeds to evolve, bone from its bone, till the whole structure is completed. In like manner, in the investigation of this perplexing subject, we must collect all the facts relating to it, and listen, with docility to their conjoint testimony; in other words, we must collect all important *known* facts, and carefully inquire what other and unknown facts must necessarily have been connected with them, and from these we may proceed to evolve still other facts necessarily connected with *them*, and so on, till we arrive at something like a consistent whole;—much as we study the planets—if we discover in one of them the presence of vapor and clouds, we know it must be supplied with water and atmosphere; and knowing this, we know that, so far, it is capable of sustaining animal life; and so on, as far as the inductive principle will legitimately lead us.

In the time allotted us on this occasion, we can take only a rapid glance at the main facts relating to our subject; especially as it seems necessary, first to notice, briefly, some of the theories which have captivated many minds, but which do not seem to be borne out by a full and fair interpretation of all the facts. Passing over the theories of an antediluvian origin, advocated by some, we may notice that others have maintained that