

the North Pacific, and so near to each other that adventurers in very rude barks may pass from one island to another, without being on the water more than two days between any two of them.

The Chichimecs, a rude people who preceded the Aztecs in Mexico, called themselves "Children of the ground"—claiming to have sprung from and come up out of the ground, and to have been the subjects of the "lord of the seven caves."

Col. Charles Hamilton Smith, of Edinburgh in his treatise on the Natural History of the Human Species, suggests that the Chichimecs were from the Aleutian Islands—understanding the word caves as a figure denoting vessels or canoes. Mr. Schoolcraft addressed a letter to Lieut. Maury, asking his opinion on this point and several others relative to the navigation of the Pacific and Polynesian waters by means of the rude vessels of early ages. In his reply, to which we have before alluded, this scientific navigator says:

"At page 261, the Colonel had a stronger case than he supposed. The Aleutians of the present day *actually live in caves* or subterranean apartments, which they enter through a hole in the top. They are the most bestial of the species."

"You wish me to state whether, in my opinion, the Pacific and Polynesian waters could have been navigated in early times, supposing the winds to have been as they now are—in balsams, floats and other rude vessels of early ages?

"Yes; if you had a supply of provisions, you could run down the trades in the Pacific on a log. There is no part of the world where nature would tempt savage man more strongly to launch out upon the open sea, with his bark, however frail.

"Most of the islands are surrounded with coral reefs, between which and the shore, the water is as smooth as a mill-pond. The climate and the fish invite the savage into the water, and the mountains which separate valley from valley, make it more easy for the natives to go from valley to valley by water than by land; for the scoriæ upon the mountains, with the bramble by the way, offer barriers to those naked people which are almost impassable. On the other hand, there is the refreshing water,