

the smooth bay, the floating log, or even the unhusked cocoa-nut to buoy him along. I have seen children there, not more than three years old, swimming off to the ship with nothing but a cocoa-nut to hold by. This voyage accomplished (from one part of an island to another) there is the island in the distance to attract and allure; and the next step would be—if we imagine an infant colony on an island of a group—to fit out an expedition to some of those to leeward. The native then finds a hollow log, split in two. Like children here, he has dammed up his little mountain streamlet with a dam of clay across. He does the same with his trough, kneading the clay, and making a dam with it across either end. He puts in a few cocoa-nuts, a calabash of water, breaks a green branch thick with foliage, sticks it up for a sail and away he goes before the wind at the rate of three or four miles an hour. I have seen them actually do this. * * * But by some mishap, in the course of time, his frail bark misses the island or falls to leeward; the only chance then is to submit to the winds and waves and go where they will bear.”

Lieut. Maury then remarks that the Pacific Islander very soon gets above the use of such rude contrivances, and describes their method of constructing canoes that will carry twenty persons or more.*

The foregoing remarks of Lieut. Maury appear to relate

* With all these valuable hints before him, it is surprising that Mr. Schoolcraft should have settled down upon the conclusion that the origin of the Indian stock upon this continent dates back to a period anterior to the writings of Herodotus and the Nilotic inscriptions. Indeed, these hints seem to have brought a momentary gleam of light to his mind touching the mystery of Indian origin, when he says:—

“It is no necessary consequence, however, of the principles of dispersion, that it should have been extended to this continent as the result of regular design. Design there may have been. Asia, Polynesia, and the Indian Ocean, have abounded, for centuries, with every element of national discord. Pestilence and predatory wars have pushed population over the broadest districts of Persia, India, China, and all Asia. The isles of the sea have been the nurseries of nations. Half the globe has been settled by differences of temperature, oceanic currents, the search of food, thoughtless adventure, or other forms of what is called mere accident, and not purposed migration.”

Mr. S. also remarks, following Lieut. M.'s letter, that we have traditional gleams of a foreign origin from separate stocks of nations; and yet the question of the origin of what he considers the true aborigines, in his mind, seems to have remained wrapped in the profoundest mystery.