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EVIDENCE

OF THE

AFFINITY OF THE POLYNESIANS AND  
AMERICAN INDIANS

WITH THE

CHINESE AND OTHER NATIONS OF ASIA,

DERIVED FROM

THE LANGUAGE, LEGENDS & HISTORY OF THOSE RACES,

BY THE

Rev. W. Labrecque,

*Knight of the Order of Francis Joseph; Member of the I. R. Zoological Botanical Society of Vienna;  
Corresponding Member of the Imperial Geological Institute of Austria; in 1865 Chinese and  
Dutch Interpreter to the American Embassy for the Exchange of Ratifications  
with Japan; late Inspector of Government Schools of Hongkong; &c., &c., &c.*



HONGKONG:

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## PREFACE.

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When the author of the following pamphlet first arrived in the South and East of Asia and seeing the motley groups of races passing before him, there arose in his mind thousands of questions as to the cause of the different shades and forms, which have given rise to the most conflicting opinions. On no other subject has the human brain advanced so many hypotheses and absurd theories than on that of the races of mankind. Abnormities and aberrations from the laws of nature have been adduced to establish foolish theories. Rask, Knox, Darwin, Haeckel and others have tried to prove certain races of man to be either still half brutes, or have conceded to them so much development of their faculties as to be a little above the Orang Outang and Gorilla.

The author of "Kraft and Stoff" is not ashamed of quoting A. von Humboldt and G. von Schubert as advocates of his notion of a plurality of races, and of man having been created a speechless being. Any person having read the "Kosmos" and the "Geschichte der Seele" can come to no other conclusion than that the author of "Kraft and Stoff" is either an *ignoramus* or a bold deceiver; for Humboldt advocates the identity of races and Schubert proves from the high development of the ancient languages that man has been created a speaking being.

The unprejudiced investigator, who has watched the changes of intermediate races and tongues caused

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by the intermixture of typically different races and their offsprings, and listening to the language of savages or semicivilized nations, will, on the islands of the Pacific, and in the forests of South, Central, and North America, in language, history, and in the physiognomies of the different tribes, discover their affinity with the nations of eastern Asia.

The laws, according to which certain nations change their own and other languages, will point out to him their connections with other races, and the influence, which the intercourse with them has exercised in giving them their peculiar features, and in clothing them in the costume in which they appear before him. He need not take refuge either to autochthones or to monkeys, in order to create the motley groups of intermediate races between the typical. If he be not an imposter or a fool, then he will acknowledge Negroes to have no more twenty molar teeth than a German or Englishman a double row of incisors, though incidents of that kind do not belong to the rarest occurrences. And if not blinded by prejudice, then he will ascribe the barrenness of certain tribes in their intercourse with superior races to no other specific, than to an enervated state, to bodily weakness arising from poor living or from bad habits, the cause of so many unhappy wedlocks among European nations.

The inhabitants of "Pitcairn," the descendents of the crew of the "Bounty" and of Tahitian mothers, have a numerous progeny. The present schoolmaster and lay preacher has 10 living children and 30 grandchildren, all hale and strong.

There are 300 individuals on Pitcairn, who lost only 15 persons by death (4 by accident) during a space of six years, whilst during the same space of time there have been 100 births. There has been no corruption allowed to destroy their happiness or to bring death among them. They are a fine, handsome race and very intelligent.

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How different is the case in New Zealand and on the Sandwich Islands! The census of 1842 gave 140,000 inhabitants for New Zealand; in 1850, 70,000; in 1858, 55,970; whilst in 1870 there are scarcely 40,000. Taking the population of the Sandwich Islands at 250,000, when Cook discovered them; upon the death of Kamehamea the First at 120,000; and at present at 62,000, then we are able to form an idea of the pernicious influence, which certain whites exercise upon the natives, when unrestrained by law and religion.

In the following pages we have traced the connection of the Polynesians and American Indians with the Chinese and other nations of eastern Asia. We have given an outline of the intercourse of Europeans with America during a period of 500 years, or nearly 700 years anterior to the discovery of that continent by Columbus. It is hoped, that the evidence given will induce many scientific men of Europe and America to be in future more reserved in their assertions respecting the affinities of races, and that it may induce them to advocate the sending out of professional men to study the living tongues of Asia and compare them with the languages spoken by the natives of America and on the islands of the Pacific.

Hongkong, December, 1871.

W. L.