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At the heat in which it is volatile, it dissolves. Caoutchouc and the compound does not possess the peculiarities of that substance, at the same temperature copal softens in it and becomes opaque and white at the centre. It retains its transparency externally. It dissolves and the compound has none of the characteristics of copal.

The green colouring matter is partly soluble in water, the solution is blackened by sulphate of iron and therefore indicates the presence of Gallic acid.

*Catalogue of a few remarkable coincidences, &c.
which induce a belief of the Asiatic Origin of
the North American Indians, by Major
Mercer, R. A.*

LEDYARD,

An American intimate with our Indians, on finding himself amongst the Yakuti, Tongusi, &c. of Siberia, felt at once the conviction of their identity.—See Sparke's Life of Ledyard.

FEATHERS,

The Peacock's Feather stuck in the back of the bonnet and hanging down behind is amongst the Mantchoos & Chinese a military distinction ; it is according to some, similar to our Orders of Knighthood, and the dignity is increased by each additional Feather.—The Caufirs of Canbul wear a sort of Turban into which is stuck a long Feather for every Musulman the wearer has killed.—The North American Indian sticks an Eagle's feather in his head-dress for every enemy he has killed. I have seen
them

them at Amherstburg wearing these ornaments, and it struck me particularly from their being pendant on the back, or sticking out behind, like those of the Chinese.

FUNERAL RITES. We find almost every mode in use amongst the Siberians, &c. also amongst one or other of the Indian Tribes, viz. exposing on scaffold; wrapping up in bark; burying in shallow graves covered by a bark roof, over which are suspended flags, pieces of silk, &c.—burning—enclosing in trees; suspending from the branches of trees. Also the accompaniments of arms, utensils, food, &c.

**BARK UTENSILS }
& CANOES, &c. }**

La Perouse found baskets of Bark exactly like those of our Indians, on the coast of Tartary.—The Tongusi use the Bark canoe, and La Perouse speaks of the rolls of Bark the inhabitants of Lagalun carry with them, for covering their wigwams.

SNOW SHOES.

La Perouse and Lisseps, both found the Snow shoe in Eastern Tartary & Kamtschatka.

MAPS.

The Tact displayed by the Indians in delineating the features of a country, is found on the other Continent, and its E. Islands. La Perouse speaks particularly of the Inhabitants of Sagaleen as displaying great intelligence of this sort.

**POSITION of MALES } This Oriental Custom is prevalent
for Urinary Evacuations } among the Indians, I mean that of
squatting**

squatting like females.—For its being Asiatic see Burkhardt, I forget what volume, and Forster's overland journey from India vol. 1. p. 245.

REPRESENTATION. Amongst the Afghauns and American Indians the same mode of Representation prevails. The Council being formed of Representatives from each family, with the Chief or Khan for President.

FEAST of DOGS. In Kamtschatka and among our Indians the Dog is esteemed a prime delicacy and reserved for great or solemn occasions. In China Puppies are sold in the Markets.

GAMES. The Indian game at Ball, resembles the Irish Hurling, but still more closely the Basque Game of *longue Paume*. Also does the enthusiasm and importance attached to it.—The Game of the Bowl is a Tartar Game?

POLYGAMY. Common to the two people, as also many attendant circumstances.

LOVERS. The custom of the Lover serving a year in the family of his Future, obtains among some Indian Tribes, as Jacob served Laban.—Ledyard says the Tchouktchis do the same; so do the Tunquinese—vide *Exposé Statistique de Tunquin*.

BARK as FOOD. Is used by the Kamtschadales and the Indians likewise.

MOCCASSIN. Ledyard found this among the Kal-mouks.

- TOBACCO, &c. The use of Tobacco is said by the Chinese to be of great antiquity amongst them.—The use of the Pipe in ceremonies, &c. is common all over Asia, particularly in the reception and dismissal of Guests &c. this is quite Indian.—The Tongusi always commence by presenting the Pipe.
- SCALPING. Pennat says the Scythians scalped—Polybius has the same of the Carthaginians.
- WAMPUM. Ledyard found it among the Tartars used in ornamenting Dresses, &c.
- DEPILATION. That our Indians pluck out their Beards, &c. is well known—Pallas says the Kalmouks do the same.
- SENIORITY. Those dwelling furthest West are deemed Seniors. See Long's Exped. to St. Peter's River, vol. 1. p. 90.
- SACRAMENT. In the same author vol. 1. p. 92 is described a religious ceremony partaking much of our receiving the Sacrament.
- WOMEN. The Potowatomies and many others conceive Women an inferior order of Beings.
- LEGGINS. Major Long says the Leggin is very similar to a Chinese Garment that supplies the place of Pantaloons.
- WHITE. A sacred colour.—The skin of a white deer for instance being a most acceptable offering!!—This recalls the white heifers of the ancients—

White

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White is the Chinese mourning--*ergo* sacred.

SEPTENNIAL SU- } The Indians say the Deer and Bears,
PERSTITION. } &c. are alternately more numerous every seventh year; they also believe in a Septennial rise of the Waters.—This is found also in some parts of Asia. Morier mentions it in his 2d journey through Persia p. 20.

GUESTS. In the Entertainment of Guests, the Indians never eat with them, but wait on them.—This is Asiatic. It may have its origin in a superstitious entertained by both people, viz. that the least drop of Wine falling on any thing contaminates it.

JOURNEYS, &c. A great similarity in the mode of travelling is found between Tribes on both continents, such as the use of the Canoe, carrying the bark for their Tents; mode of halting, &c. Portages, &c.

PREPARATION of } By the Squaws of the Indians, the
SKINS, } Kamtschadales, the Koriacs, &c.
BEDS of TWIGS. The Indians make extremely comfortable beds of the small Twigs of the Cedar, &c. The Tchoukchis are described as using these beds.

HUNTING. The mode of driving Deer, Buffaloes, &c. into enclosures as described by Hearne, &c. &c. is precisely like that followed by the Kamtschadales & Koriacs—I think Lessep says so.

SECESSION

- SECESSION FROM } We find it no uncommon thing for
TRIBES. } Parties, to secede from their own
Tribe, and obtain adoption in one
of another Nation—For an account
of a similar practice amongst the Af-
ghauns, see Elphinstone's Caubul,
vol. 1. p. 273, 4to.
- FRIENDS. See in the same author vol. 2. pp.
4-5 Ed. 8vo. an account of alliances
formed between two young Afghauns
mutually to fight for each other, and
compare it with the account of simi-
lar engagements amongst the Sioux,
&c. given by Major Long's Expd.
to St. Peter's river, vol. 1. p. p. 233
436.
- CHAMPIONS. Elphinstone vol. 2. p. 29, describes
those of the Eusozyes an Afghaun
Tribe. Something very similar is
found amongst the Tribes W. of the
Mississippi.
- WAR CHIEFS. The same Author describes a prac-
tice of the Afghauns in chosing a
Chief, (different from the hereditary
Chief) to conduct a War, which is
precisely that of the Indian Tribes.
See his Caubul 8vo. vol. 2. p. 186.
- MAGAZINES. The earliest European visitors among
the Indians describe their mode of
storing their corn &c. which is the
same as that now practised by the
Kantschadales, Tartars, &c.
- LABIALS. De Guignes, Timskowski &c. &c.
observe that the Mantchoux and
Chingse are unable to pronounce the
letters

- letters B. P. M. F. Father Hennepin says the same of the Iroquois.
- TOMAHAWK.** Query. Is this not eminently an Asiatic Weapon ? perhaps not exactly in its present form ; but as a battle axe. Some of the Tartars wear a small axe at the girdle.
- WASHING & ANOIN- } This is repeatedly mentioned by**
TING FEET. } Hennepin and others.
- CRUCIFIXION.** Père Hennepin p. 91 asserts that the Iroquois crncify their prisoners, &c.
- SPINDLE.** The Squaws used this for making their Thread long before the Europeans visited their country.
- CATAMITES.** Boys kept for infamous purposes, are mentioned by several writers on the American Indians, who also describe the Cinœdi, who assume the female garb and employments.--That this abomination exists in China, &c. is pretty fully established, and under aspects very similar.
- PSYLLI.** Serpent Charmers are described by P. Hennepin, Carver and others.
- POULTRY.** The native country of our domestic hen, is, I believe India. It is a descendant of the Jungle fowl, and I have never heard of its being indigenous in this Continent. Hennepin speaks of domestic fowls amongst Tribes to whom he was the first European Visitor. Query, had they obtained them from the Spaniards ?

If not, here is a singular coincidence.

DOGS,

The same may be said of the Dog,—
Is he indigenous, otherwise it is a
singular coincidence that the Indians
should have possessed Dogs previous
to their being visited by Europeans.

SACRIFICES,

And Offerings to the Great Spirit &
the Evil one ; a great similarity per-
haps identity is found between the
modes practised by the Tartars and
Indians.

LANGUAGES.

Lesseps says that in Kamtschatka
alone, in going from one village to
another an Interpreter is necessary---
'This dissimilarity in language emi-
nently prevails amongst the N. A.
Indians.

BATHS.

The Vapour Bath in Asia and Ame-
rica is the same thing exactly.

DUCK HUNTING.

It is remarkable that the same mode
of taking wild Fowl by going into
the water with a calabash on the
head, and seizing them by the legs
should be practized in China & about
the Isthmus of Darien.

LENDING WIVES.

Altho' I have not yet found this In-
dian Custom, amongst any Siberian
Tribe, yet it is said to be practised
by the Laplanders.

MATCHE MANITOU, Of the Indians appears to coincide
with the Goule or Spirit of the De-
sert among the Asiatics.

EMBLEMS,

Of Tribes—West notices as similar
to those of the Tribes of Israel—The
Tartars are I believe divided into
F r bands

bands or standards, &c. as that of the Wolf, &c.

JUSTICE.

An offender against any family is punished by that Family, the Chiefs not interfering—the same prevails amongst the Afghauns—see Elphinstone &c.

BRIDGE OF * * *

I forget what the Mahometans call the bridge they must pass to arrive in Paradise—a very similar superstition is prevalent with most of the Indian Tribes.

WIDOWS.

Among the Chippewas and some other tribes a man is bound to marry his brother's widow.

WATER BUDGETS. The skin budget for water or liquors is found among some tribes on the Mississippi and its tributaries.

FEAST OF LAMPS: Amongst these also is found a Festival something analogous to the Chinese one in the Margin—at the commencement of Buffalo hunting,—vide Hunter p. 218.

METEMPSYCHOSIS. Traces of it are found amongst some tribes.

BURNT OFFERINGS, Are sometimes made—vide Hunter &c.

AMULETS, &c. Are in constant use amongst the American Indians.

SITTING POSTURE, The Asiatic mode of sitting cross-legged is common with most tribes.—Is there not also a connection between the Mats placed round the Lodges for this purpose and the numuds of the Tartars?

WIGWAMS

WIGWAMS, &c. Both those of bark and of skin are common and of a common form in Asia and America.

SHIELDS Of Buffalo used by western tribes—this is truly Asiatic.

NAMES, &c, The prevalence of Monosyllables in their Names both of persons and things—if we may trust Hunter, are completely Chinese—Thus '*Shu-ja-he-min-keh*'—'*O-kon-now*'—'*Thin-ga-was-sa*'—'*Pu-ton-sech*', &c.

DEATH. The Indians believe death has been inflicted on the human family in consequence of transgressions against the great Spirit.

COUNTENANCE, The Mongul countenance is found among some tribes as the Mohawks, &c. The Tartarian features in some tribes are remarkably striking in others they almost if not entirely disappear.

ONCEAN, Or breech cloth is worn by the Tunkineses, &c.

BAIDAR, Or skin boat of the Siberians is found here also,

SCALP LOCK & SHAVEN HEADS. } This is well known as Asiatic, at least the second, which may be said to be general throughout Asia—the scalp-lock is peculiar to the Chinese and some Tartar tribes.

DANCES, The Scalp Dance may be the same as the Pyrrhic Dance, or as the Hungarian War Dance described in Brights' Travels—These Hungarians

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are certainly of Tartar origin,---
Coxe in his Poland, &c. vol. 1. p.
307, describes a Kalmuck dance
which is exactly similar to one I have
seen danced by our Indians, but for-
get whether it is the dog-dance, or
what.

PAPPOUS CRADLE--Is the Jætka of the Laplanders, and
the treatment of the child &c. exact
—The Laplanders, who are they? —
vide Accrbi. C. Brooke &c. &c.,

THE BEAR,
The Indians have great respect for
the Bear, supposing him endowed with
superior intellect, that when they at-
tack him, it is customary to address
him with reproaches, &c. The same
ideas and usages prevail amongst the
Laplanders, &c.—vide Lewis &
Clark. C. Brooke, &c.

AMADOU.
From the most remote period the
Nations of Siberia and the American
Indians, use the same sort of Tinder
for lighting their Pipes, &c.—forget
authority for this.

AURORA BOREALIS, In Siberia and in America the tribes
think they see the spirits of departed
Friends, &c. dancing in the Aurora
&c. vid. Hearne—Cap. Brooke, &c.

TATTOOING,
WATER,
Is common on both Continents.
The Sioux are said to offer water to
Strangers, as a symbol of peace, also
to those who have offended them as
a mark of pardon—The Tartars have
a similar usage.

FIRE BRAND. Another usage common to the two
people

people is the belief that it is unlucky to cut a stick, &c, which has been partially burnt.

CHILD BIRTH,

West says that the Indians esteem a woman impure 40 days after a male and 80 after a female child is born and that similarly to what is enjoined by the Levitical Law, the man must remain separated from her during that period.

MENSTRUATION.

In the same manner the women must be put a part during menstruation—I have seen them shut up in lodges surrounded by an enclosure at a distance from the Camp.—The Indians imagine the impurity extends to every thing they have to do with even the Fire, and would on no account go thither for fire.

DELUGE.

They all have Traditions of this Catastrophe.

BURNING of WIDOWS. West says is to be found among some Tribes near M'Kenzies River,

STONEING.

The same author mentions the practice of stoning culprits to death among the Micmacs as formerly existing.

PAINTING.

The person particularly with Vermillion is found in India, see B. Hebers Journal.—In Kamschatka & Timkowski says the Chinese use it, Vol. 2. p. 90.—Further painting the Face red is common among the Russian female Peasants,

TRABUGGAN,

Appears to be precisely the Wart of Siberia

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- Siberia, vide Bell of Antermony, vol. 1. p. 287.
- WAMPUM. In many parts of Asia, and among some Tartar Tribes it is customary to eiregister remarkable events by knotted Cords, or by stringing Beads on Cords—Is not this the Wampum ? ?
- HUNTING RULE. Among the Mongol and Montchoux &c. (I believe) it is a fixed rule that the skin of an animal belongs to the killer.—Something analagous is found among the Indians, who finding a dead beast, are at liberty to take the flesh but must leave the skin. Also a man who discovers the Ravages of the Orignal fixes his mark, and tho' he go in pursuit of something else should another Indian kill his Orignal, the skin belongs to the Discoverer.
- NOSE RINGS, Worn by the Iudian and by the Tartar, &c. &c. In China, they are sometimes worn by certain Women who profess chastity.
- TORTOISE, There are various superstitions relative to the Tortoise among the Chinese, Tartars and Indians. The former believe the World rests upon one.—These superstitions require time, means, and great attention, either to ascertain their connection, or the contrary !
- IDOLS, Similar to some found among the Tartars, are known to be venerated by
by

by the Indians.—A seaman named Brown (probably known to Capt. Bayfield) then employed in the naval establishment at Grand River (1824) told me of one he had seen on Christian Island, Lake Huron.

CANOES,

The manner in which the bark Canoe is handled by the Tongusi—their kneeling position whilst rowing, &c. as described by Bell of Antermony is quite Indian.

DREAMS, &c.

The Tartars and Siberians dream as well as our Indians, for a remarkable similarity of feeling sentiment, &c. see Mongol Song—Timkowski vol. I. p. 69 and infra. Is any thing deducible from this; or is it, that the songs of wild people always breathe the same feeling, whether—Celtic, Indian, Mongolian, or Esthonian?

NAMES OF HONOR. We find among the Mongols the same application of brute appellations as among our Indians.—Thus in the former case are the Lion, the strong Elephant, &c. &c.—in the latter, the Wolf, the Tortoise, Blackbird, &c. &c.

DIVINITY,

The Omnipresence of the Deity and his other attributes appear to be almost precisely alike among all our Indian Tribes and those of Siberia.—See Timkowski, Ledyard, Hunter, Carver and a multitude of other authors,