Bancroft's Hist. United States.

Mr Bancroft, Vol. III ch. XXII gives an account of the aboriginal tribes east of the Mississippi at the period of discovery. Here it is not necessary to enumerate them. Of their emigrations previous to that period, as handed down by tradition he says nothing excepting to quote Heckewelder for the Delaware report that tribes of the Algonquin & Iroquois families, expelled from the Ohio its ancient tenants, & that the fugitives descended the Mississippi.

Emigration in consequence of White settlement appears to have commenced at an early period. He shows that the clans that disappeared from their ancient hunting grounds did not always become extinct. They migrated north & west, & instances the Sokokies of Maine moving to Canada.

It is to be observed that not only the encroachments of the whites have forced the Indian tribs from their original homes, but the acquisition of fire arms, and among the prairie tribs of horses, has offered inducements to travel and conquest. A large portion of the tribes east of the Mississippi, as well as those between that River and the Rocky Mountains, were always nomadic to the limit of their strength, and to such, migration creates no change in their usual habits and binds up no established ties. Among many of the Pacific tribes on the contrary, especially those of the coast, the residence was fixed and permanent, and though the natives wandered from spot to spot during the season to procure food in its variety, as offered by the different fisheries, hunting & berrying grounds, their houses, built of plank and often stockaded, remained as a picture to which they always returned with the approach of winter. The difficulty of moving these people on to reservations is almost insuperable.

Bancroft remarks on the languages and dialects are not always applicable to the western tongues. It is noticeable that some of the changes in letters among different dialects are similar. Thus he says, the Oneidas always changed the letter r. The rest of the Iroquois tribs rejected the l. The Algonquins have no f. &c. &c.