

ences on the contrary are so wide that the Carriers and the Sékanais, though geographically neighbours, can scarcely understand a word of each others' language unless they have previously learned it by personal intercourse.

Many of the remarks I am going to offer on the social status of the western tribes should be understood as applying to their original condition when no missionaries had as yet (20 years ago) endeavored to civilize and morally coerce them into giving up the most obnoxious of their customs. It would scarcely be to the point to speak of them as they are at present, since, being generally progressive in disposition, they are socially speaking pretty much as we have made them. However, the Sékanais and Nah'anés, owing to their nomadic mode of living and the consequent difficulty to produce permanent effects upon them, may be said to have to this day almost preserved their original social status.

## II

The American aboriginal type is too well known on this continent to require a description from me. Our Dénés, in spite of the characteristics which particularize them into various tribes, do not materially differ from it. Suffice it to say that whilst the Chilixotins are generally of low stature, broad shouldered and not unlike the Chinese in their physical features; the Carriers are, as a rule, rather tall and stout without being corpulent, while most of them possess a fine physique. On the other hand, the Sékanais and Nah'anés, especially the former, are slender and bony, with hollow cheeks and almond shaped eyes shining with ophidian brightness.

Of course, tattooing prevailed everywhere. The face was particularly the object of would-be ornaments in the shape of incrustated crosses or birds on the cheeks, the forehead or the temples. But more commonly they consisted of parallel stripes, more or less numerous, on the chin or the cheeks converging to the mouth corners. On exceptional occasions, such as dances or "potlatches", the Dénés had recourse to charcoal to render themselves apparently more redoubtable. And the young folks had vermilion to enhance their natural beauty, and it may safely be conjectured that they did not use it sparingly.