

At the present day, it can hardly be said that they are of finer *physique* than the Teton and other roving bands of the Upper Missouri, who have suffered less, of late, from epidemic disease and hunger, but they still take greater pride in their dress and personal appearance than most of their neighbors. The frequent intermarriages of the Mandans and Hidatsa tend constantly to assimilate them more and more to one another in appearance; yet those claiming pure Hidatsa blood are generally taller and of more prominent features than those who consider themselves pure Mandans. We do not see as many faces among the Minnetarees pitted with small-pox as among the Arickarees and Mandans. Among all the tribes in the village, there are many disfigured by goiter and opacities of the cornea. All of the Hidatsa men bear on their bodies unsightly cicatrices resulting from the tortures of the Nahpiké.

*Tattooing* may be spoken of in this connection. A few only of the old men are tattooed. The marks consist of numerous parallel bands on one side, or over the entire of the chest and throat, and over one or both arms. I have never seen tattooed marks on any of this tribe elsewhere, or in any other shape. The middle-aged men, the young men, the women, and the children are not tattooed. I believe that these marks on the old men were put on for something more than mere ornament, and had some forgotten significance. In Arickaree picture-writings, Grosventres are sometimes represented by a rude symbol of a man having the upper part covered with parallel stripes. As far as I can learn, this particular style of tattooing is peculiar to the Minnetarees.

*Complexion*—The majority of the Hidatsa have the ordinary dusky Indian complexion, which is, however, not of a uniform shade, as far as I have seen, in any tribe. There are none of this nation that would be considered dark for Indians. Among various tribes of western Indians may be found individuals, claiming pure aboriginal blood, who possess complexions much fairer than the average Indian, with light-colored hair and eyes. Such individuals are more common among the Mandans and Minnetarees than they are among most of the neighboring tribes. A natural or inherited clearness of com-