

warriors pursued their way south and finally reached a point on the Thompson opposite the mouth of the Nicola river. There they were discovered by scouts of the Thompsons who at once carried the tidings of the presence within their territory of a hostile force, to their fellow tribesmen at Nicomen and Lytton.

A strong force of the Thompsons at once set out to repel the invaders and having duly reconnoitred the enemy's position and estimated his strength, established themselves in his front and rear. The invaders were not slow to realise the danger¹ that threatened them by a superior force established in commanding positions and, with admirable discretion, quietly and unobserved, crossed the Thompson river under cover of night. They ascended the Nicola, followed by the Thompsons who continually harassed them, finally driving them into the Similkameen district. There, however, the strangers, young men for the most part with their wives with them, took a firm stand and offered such resolute resistance that their pursuers ceased to interfere with them further. There the newcomers remained and the Thompsons and Okanagan were subjected to conquest at their hands, not by the warriors but by their women who were good to look upon and found favor in the eyes of the young men among the older established peoples. Treaties were made and inter-marriages resulted, and gradually the strangers lost their individuality. They are credited with being the first inhabitants of the Similkameen of whom there is any record.

At what date the Indians of the Southern Interior had their first knowledge of the whites there is no definite information but it was probably at some time con-