

name Grosventre would apply as well to those "of the Missouri" as to those "of the Prairie". Maximilian says of the Hidatsa:—"The French give them the singular name of Grosventres, which is no more appropriate to them than to any other of the Indian tribes."* Palliser remarks:—"They are most absurdly termed Grosventres by the French traders, there being not the slightest foundation for branding them with that epithet."† Various writers who have visited this tribe concur in these opinions.

Minnetarees.—In the works of many travelers they are called "Minnetarees", a name which is spelled in various ways; thus Captain Lewis writes it "Minnetarees"; Catlin, "Minatarees"; De Smet, "Minataries"; Palliser, "Minitarees"; while in the accompanying Dictionary it is spelled Minitari, or Miditadi. This, although a Hidatsa word, is the name applied to them, not by themselves, but by the Mandans; it signifies *to cross the water*, or *they crossed the water*. The name may allude to the Hidatsa tradition of their own origin, or to their account that they came originally from the northeast, and had to cross the Missouri before reaching the old Mandan villages, which were on the west bank of the river, or the name may have originated from some other cause; but the story, be it true or false, which is now given by both tribes concerned, to account for its origin, is this: When the wandering Minnetarees first reached the Missouri and stood on the bank opposite to one of the villages of the Mandans, the latter cried out, "Who are you?" The strangers, not understanding what was said, but supposing that the Mandans (who were provided with boats) asked them what they wanted, shouted in return, "Minitari," *to cross the water*, or "Minitari mihats," *we will cross the water*. The Mandans supposed that in this reply the visitors gave them their name, and called them Minitari ever after.

The name, as above intimated, will be found in this dictionary written 'Miditadi' or 'Minitari,' and its component parts, 'midi,' *water*, and 'tadi,' *to cross over*. The reason for this varying orthography will be discovered by consulting the grammar, paragraphs 19 to 23 inclusive, where it is shown

* p. 395.

† p. 198.