

TINNEH OR ATHABASKANS.

To the knowledge of these people in Alaska little or nothing has been added of late.

The Kün-ün-ah' or Stick Indians, who inhabit the Lewis branch of the Yukon heading near the Lynn Canal, have been visited by numerous parties of whites, and lately by Lieutenant Schwatka, who has given some interesting details as to the life and condition of these Indians, and especially of those lands on the Iyon (Hai-an, Ayan, etc., whence Hai-ankutchin or Han-kutchin, the latter probably a corruption of the former) river and the upper part of the Yukon, about which so little has been known.

I was able to definitely determine, during my visit to Cook's Inlet in 1880, the proper name of the Tinneh tribe which live on its shores; the K'nai-äkhótana (Knaitse or Kenaitze of the Russian, Tinnats by corruption; Tehaninkutchin of the Yukon tribes north of them) whose range was determined by Petroff to include and surround the great Iliamna Lake.

There has been for two seasons a military party endeavoring to ascend the Atna or Copper river from the sea. Doubtless the report on the country and people which we may expect from them on their return will be replete with greatly needed ethnological as well as geographical information.

ADJACENT TRIBES.

In closing my sketch of progress in anthropological knowledge in the far northwest, I cannot omit (though somewhat beyond our boundaries) calling your attention to the valuable work of Dr. Geo. M. Dawson of the Canadian Geological Survey. He has published an admirable monograph on the Haida of Queen Charlotte Islands, and in connection with the veteran Dr. W. F. Tolmie, a series of comparative vocabularies of the British Columbian tribes, illustrated by a map of their distribution. This fills a gap in ethnographic maps which has long reproachfully appealed to the eye of the student, and for the first time renders possible a general discussion of Northwest American tribes.

We should not forget, however, that our knowledge is still for the most part approximate, especially in regard to what are called tribes, and that a really comprehensive treatment of this branch of the subject must be reserved for more precise data still to be collected.