

caps, ornamented with a small piece of board projecting forwards, as it seemed, for a defence against the arrows".<sup>1</sup>

Of the inhabitants of Alaxa, Uminak, Unalashka and the neighbouring islands, the same author likewise records that "on their heads they wear wooden caps, ornamented with ducks feathers and the ears of the sea-animal called *Seiutchka*, or sea-lion".<sup>2</sup>

With regard to the other defensive weapons attributed to the Dénés' traditional enemies, they are also to be found, without an iota of difference, among the same maritime aborigines. I myself minutely described, years ago, both of the kinds of armour mentioned by Petitot's informants.<sup>3</sup> I gave them out as the Carrier shield and cuirass, but they are common to all the North Pacific coast Indians. By referring to Coxe's valuable work, we find the same among the islanders of the Far West—and probably the Asiatics of the Extreme East as well.

"On the 4th of October [1763] about two hundred islanders made their appearance, carrying wooden shields before them, and preparing with bows and arrows for an attack", he writes of the natives met by the Russians on Kadyak Island.<sup>4</sup> A specimen of this armour having fallen into the hands of the white explorers, it was found to be "made of three rows of stakes placed perpendicularly, and bound together with sea-weed and osiers; they were twelve feet broad, and about half a yard thick".<sup>5</sup>

As to the "couteaux tranchants liés au bout d'une perche", these were also to be seen throughout the same region, viz. the North Pacific coast of America and west thereof, as well as the wigs which the Dénés' old enemies are said to have worn.

All of which cannot but create the impression that the Dénés traversed that country while on their way to their present habitat.

## VI.

So much for the traditions of the Eastern Dénés.

The main division of those who live west of the Rockies is the Carrier tribe, the seats of which are around the numerous lakes of Central British Columbia. The Carriers have no reminiscence of having moved from a western continent. They even contend that they always dwelt

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 56.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 211. See also Sarytschew, *ubi supra*, Vol. II, p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> "Notes . . . on the Western Dénés" (Transactions of the Canadian Institute, Vol. IV, pp. 117 and 149; Toronto, 1893).

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 129.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 130.