

the Blackfeet, their numbers are dwindling fast; and I fear that ere long the remnants of a noble race, will in their case have passed away. I am no promoter, be it understood, of that mawkish romance with which fictionists have been pleased to invest the Indian tribes; but, while in so far ~~as~~ reserving against misapprehension on this point, I would fain do justice to the many good qualities by which the interior races are characterized: the virtues which, spite of all imperfections, shine through, ever and anon,

Qual' raggio di sole tra nuvoli folli.

Such of my readers as in the absence of other opportunity, may have formed their impressions of Indian life and character from the alluring fictions of Mr. Cooper; or those who, on the opposite hand, have imbibed well founded prejudices from communication with the wretched fish eaters of the Columbia and its neighboring coast, will do well to pause as regards the majority, between both extremes. Procuring an abundant livelihood with little exertion; gross, sensual, and for the most part cowardly—the races who depend entirely, or chiefly, on fishing, are immeasurably inferior to those tribes, who, with nerves and sinews braced by exercise, and minds comparatively ennobled by frequent excitement, live constantly amid war and the chase. This premised, I subjoin, as handed in to me, a memorandum taken in 1848, by my interpreter, Edouard Berland, then in charge of the Kootanais outpost. It may be regarded as authentic, and I believe correct.

Population of the Kootanais tribe, as taken December, 1840. 1848

	Men.	Lads.	W'n & C'n.	Total.
Upper Kootanais	35	18	113	166
Kootanais who frequent the Flat-head country	44	39	183	266
*Lower Kootanais or Arcsplattes	78	46	273	397
	157	103	567	829

The Esquimaux must indisputably be regarded as of common origin with the Greenlanders and other Samoedic races occupying the same belt of North latitude.

\*It will not escape notice that the Arcs Plattes, who are more remote from contact with the Blackfeet, are by the above memorandum in a far more flourishing state than the other branches of this tribe.

Migrating across Davis' Straits as I have supposed the Chipewyans to have done across those of Behring; they have gradually advanced coastwise in both directions to the extent already noticed.

I shall not hazard any opinion in regard to the probable course of migration of the Saeliss, and other interior connexions, further than that I conceive it to have been from the southward and eastward, gradually advancing until interlocking with the coast tribes, who on the other hand for the causes before adverted to, have had no inducement to wander far into the interior.

All the tribes of this portion of the Pacific coast, I look upon as originating from the islands of the West—from Japan, the Kuriles and elsewhere. Nor is it unsupported hypothesis alone that leads me to this conclusion: within the limited period of my own experience on this coast, I have learnt the possibility of a fortuitous immigration, such as we may be justified in assuming to have led to the gradual peopling of this portion of the continent in the earlier ages.

For instance: in 1834, at Cape Disappointment, on our way to the northwest coast, Indians boarded our vessel and produced a map with some writing in Japanese characters; a string of the perforated copper coins of that country; and other convincing proofs of a shipwreck. Rumors of this had been heard before, and after this corroboration, the company dispatched a vessel to the point indicated. It was south of Cape Flattery (at Queenhalith I believe.) Three survivors of the crew were ransomed from the natives, afterwards sent to England, and thence to Japan. In as far as could be understood by us, they were bound from some port in the Japanese Island of Yesi, to another port in the Island of Nippon. Losing their reckoning in a typhoon, they drifted for many months, at the mercy of wind and wave, until at length stranded at the point of shipwreck. The crew had originally consisted of forty, of whom the greater portion had perished at sea during the transit; three only surviving to reach the shore. Were this the

X - i.e. to Singapore - so far en route to their home -