

nation of "Men" (Tinney), living far off in the west, and professing honesty and fair-behaviour like the English. She expressed her determination of returning to her own people, and begged for assistance on the way home, promising to establish friendly relations between her countrymen and the officers of the company, who, glad of the opportunity of extending the sphere of their commercial transactions, gave her a sledge and dogs, with various presents, and a safe conduct through the land of the Killini. Attracted by these presents, the Chipewyans at once undertook the long voyage from the Peace River to the mouth of the Churchill, calling the fort "Thé-yé" (stone house), and its inhabitants "Thé-yé Ottiné" (men of the stone house), a name by which the English are still known among the Tinney.

These relations continued to the time when Joseph Frobisher established Fort Chipewyan, on the shores of Lake Athabasca, in 1778, for the North-west Company, at which date there were as many as 1200 Redskins settled on the lake. But the white man brought with him the horrible disease of small-pox, till then unknown to the Americans, which made great ravages among the Tinney, and more than decimated the Crees, driven to the southern part of the lake by the warlike attitude of the Chipewyans. Influenza, an epidemic catarrhal affection attacking the tribes at regular intervals of about seven years, completed the work of the small-pox. Reduced to a very small number, the Crees ceased all hostile action against the Chipewyans, who had become their superiors both in numbers and strength; so that the possession of the lake, and indeed of the territory of Athabasca, remained with the Tinney, who permitted a few Crees and Savanais to remain among them.

From Athabasca, the Chipewyans spread north by degrees towards the shores of the Great Slave Lake, and east and north-east towards Hudson's Bay, where, having met with vast herds of wild reindeer, they settled on the Barren Grounds, living from that time in common under the names of Yellow-knives ("Taltsan Ottiné"), and Caribou-eaters ("Ethen eldéli"). Such of these as remained attached to the Churchill traders, took the name of the latter and are still known to their western fellow-tribesmen as "Thé-yé Ottiné"; finally, many of them even ventured south to Lake La Biche, Cold Lake, Lake La Ronge, Cross Island, Heart Island, &c., where they bear the name of "Thi-lan Ottiné" (Men of the end of the head).

When leaving the fertile plain watered by the Peace River and its affluents, the Chipewyan Tinney were hard pressed by a tribe still more warlike than themselves, namely the Sécanais or "Thé-kké Ottiné" (Men who live on the mountains), who in their turn had come from the western slope of the Rockies, where they left tribes identical with themselves as to language and customs.

As to the Beaver Tinney, they crossed the mountains to the south and reached the plains of the Saskatchewan, where still lives a remnant