

agans (Ool'anakane) inhabit the country to the south and east of the territory on the Shuswaps and Thompsons. The western leg of the Columbia valley, including Arrow Lakes and Kootenay river, is claimed by the S-na-a-chik'st, a subdivision of the Salish proper, their headquarters being, however, in Montana. Their territory divides the Okanagans from the Kootenays (Kootenuha). The Salish proper were originally known as "Flat-heads." When first discovered by Canadian voyageurs they had amongst them slaves taken from the coast tribes where the head was deformed.¹

Little is known of the history of these aboriginal inhabitants prior to the advent of the fur traders, who were the first whites to penetrate the Interior. The remote past is shrouded in a cloud of tradition, superstition and mythology. It is evident, however, judging from these sources of information, that the different tribes were constantly at war with one another, the stronger enslaving the weaker as opportunity offered. The northern races, the Tinnéh, were the more warlike and it was probably a party of that race that, clad in the habiliments of warriors on the warpath, long before the first white man descended the Fraser or even beheld its waters, set out from the Chilcoten country and made a sudden and unexpected appearance in the Bonaparte valley. But the descent was made in the height of the salmon fishing season, and, as provisions had been abnormally scarce during the previous winter, all the Shuswaps, young and old, had removed from their villages in the Bonaparte and Thompson valleys to their fishing grounds at Pavilion. Finding none left in the villages where they had expected to surprise the stay-at-homes and enslave them, the stranger