

etc., which he took out of a bag. On being asked why he did so, he replied, 'My brother, who is christened, was so ill that we expected his death. He called upon Saint Nicholas, but would have no sorcerer. I promised that if Saint Nicholas would let him live, I would give him what I caught in my first chase. My brother recovered, I obtained these skins, and there they are.' He then bowed again and retired." Sauer euphemistically deals with their begging propensities: "They frequently resort to the solitary habitations of the Cossacs appointed to the different stages, as they are there generally supplied with brandy, needles, thread, and such trifles as are requisite among them and their women, who always accompany them in their wanderings."

Turning now to the Dénés, we find Mackenzie saying: "The Chipe-wyans are sober, timorous, and vagrant, with a selfish disposition, which has sometimes created suspicions of their integrity. Their stature has nothing remarkable in it; but, though they are seldom corpulent, they are sometimes robust. Their complexion is swarthy, their features coarse, and their hair lank, but not always of a dingy black; nor have they universally the piercing eye which generally animates the Indian countenance. The women have a more agreeable aspect than the men, but their gait is awkward, which proceeds from their being accustomed, nine months in the year, to travel on snow shoes and drag sledges of a weight from two to four hundred pounds. They are very submissive to their husbands, who have, however, their fits of jealousy; and, for very trifling causes, treat them with such cruelty as sometimes to occasion their death. They are frequently objects of traffic, and the father possesses the right of disposing of his daughter. * * * Both sexes have blue or black bars, or from one to four straight lines, on their cheeks, or forehead, to distinguish the tribe to which they belong. These marks are either tattooed, or made by drawing a thread dipped in the necessary color, beneath the skin. * * * Plurality of wives is common among them, and the ceremony of marriage is of a very simple nature. The girls are betrothed at a very early period to those whom the parents think the best able to support them; nor is the inclination of the woman considered. Whenever a separation takes place, which sometimes happens, it depends entirely on the will and pleasure of the husband. * * * They are not remarkable for their activity as hunters, which is owing to the ease with which they snare deer and spear fish; and these occupations are not beyond the strength of their old men, women and boys; so that they participate in those laborious occupations, which among their neighbors are confined to the women. They make war on the Esquimaux, who cannot resist their superior