

the Shushwap. On the authority of that narrative, the would-be invaders were pushed back by superior numbers into the Semilkameen valley where, by their prowess, they compelled their pursuers to come to terms and make a treaty of peace from which intermarriages soon resulted. "These strangers, who are said to have come from the Chilcotin country, are thus the earliest inhabitants of the Semilkameen valley of whom any account has been obtained."* Seven, out of thirteen words given by Mr. Mackay, as remnants of the original language of the invaders, are undoubtedly Tsiikoh'tin, and make it certain that the Semilkameen Shushwap are partly of Déné parentage.

Immediately north of the Tsiikoh'tin we find the Carriers or *Takheque*, the most important in numbers, most widespread and progressive of all the north-western Déné tribes. They extend as far north as the 56° of latitude and are coterminous with the coast tribes on the west and the Crees and Tse'kéhne on the east. The Coast Range on the one side and the Rocky Mountains as far as 53° lat. on the other, separate them from their heterogeneous neighbours. North of the 53°, they are in immediate contact with the Tse'kéhne.

The Carriers are semi-sedentary Indians. They have fixed homes in regularly organized villages from which they periodically scatter away in search of the fish and fur-bearing animals on which they subsist. From south to north, their tribal subdivisions are:—

1. The *Tthau'tenne* (a contraction of *Ttha-koh'tenne*, people of the Fraser River). They now have but one village, Stella (the Cape) contiguous to the old Fort Alexander, formerly one of the most important of the H. B. Co's. posts in British Columbia, now abandoned. They were originally several hundreds: they are now almost extinct as a sept. Whiskey and loose morals owing to the vicinity of the whites are responsible for this result. They are co-terminous with the Shushwap in the south and the Tsiikoh'tin in the immediate west. I do not think that fifteen individuals of that sept now remain

2. The *Nazku'tenne* (people of the river *Naz*). They are likewise greatly reduced in numbers, there not being actually more than 90 members of that sub-tribe, though they still inhabit two villages Quesnel and Black-Water.† The same causes, especially the former, as played havoc among the *Tthau'tenne*, are slowly but surely working out the

* *Ibid.* p. 25.

† The Black-Water or West River followed up by Sir. A. Mackenzie to reach the Pacific Coast.