

keep their clothes clean there is no people in the world that has less smell. All the Northern Indians, as well as those of the Copper River and the Cote de Chien, bear, on each cheek, from three to four parallel lines which they make with an awl or a needle inserted under the skin which they rub with powdered charcoal when the instrument is withdrawn. In general, the Northern Indians are very selfish; I really believe that they have no word in their language to express gratitude. They speak incessantly of their poverty, and, during the whole time of their stay at the fort, there is not one of them who does not complain of a thousand needs."

"Each of these Indians hastens to make known his misfortunes, real or imaginary, and takes care to accompany his recital with sighs and tears. There are some, even, who pretend to be lame or blind, the better to excite pity. I know of no people so thoroughly masters of themselves on such occasions, and, in that respect, the women are superior to the men; for, I can affirm having seen one, the one side of whose face expressed joy, while the other was bathed in tears. * * * Flattery is no less known to these Indians; they make use of it as long as interest prescribes it but no longer. * * * If, at the end of a certain time, this conduct of theirs does not produce the effect intended, they break forth into invectives. * * * For the rest, their rage is only temporary, and they soon become reconciled with the man whom they had intended to dupe. 'He is not a child,' they end by saying among themselves, 'therefore he can't be taken in.' * * * In spite of these bad qualities, the Northern Indians are still the most easily managed of all those who frequent the Company's stores. As they drink little liquor, they keep their senses, and confine their violence to conversation. These Indians are, in general, very jealous of their wives, and I do not doubt that the same is the case with them; but they are too much afraid of their husbands to dare exhibit the least suspicion. I cannot better compare the attitude of a Northern squaw before her husband than to that of European servants in the presence of their masters. The marriages of these people are accompanied with no ceremony. All the proposals and arrangements are made by the fathers and mothers or the nearest relations, and the women, under these circumstances, seem to be reduced to have no other will than that of their relations, who in their choice simply consult interest. * * * Divorce is very common among the Northern Indians. It arises often out of immorality, but more frequently still, from incompatibility of disposition or bad conduct. When it takes place, the ceremony begins with a volley of blows from a stick which the husband applies to his wife, and ends with putting her

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