

though separated by only one narrow range of mountains from the Upper Fraser band, still never ventured into their country. Instances are on record, however, of their crossing over, and attacking the Lower Thompsons.

The Shuswap were more warlike, and avenged every invasion of the Thompson bands. Judging by the Shuswap war-stories, they made more expeditions against the Thompsons than the latter made against them; but they were often the victims of the treachery of the Thompsons. The Shuswap were on good terms with the Spences Bridge band, though the northern Shuswap were sometimes at variance with them; and war-parties from Spences Bridge penetrated far up North Thompson River and to the neighborhood of Soda Creek. A party from Lytton penetrated even into the Chilcotin country, but, finding no one, on their return they attacked the Lillooet. At one time a party of Lower Okanagon from the American side, south of the Columbia River, lay concealed for two days in order to attack a band of Spences Bridge Indians; but so watchful were the latter, that the Okanagon returned without striking a blow. At another time, a tribe southeast of the farthest Okanagon penetrated to Nicola River, and abducted two women of the Athapaskan tribe of that valley.

The Thompson Indians had little contact with the Athapaskan Indians of the north until later days, and then for trading purposes only, though about a hundred years ago a war-party supposed to be Chilcotin penetrated into the territory of the Shuswap, and went as far south as the north side of Thompson River, near Spences Bridge. Here they were discovered, and chased by a party of Thompson Indians back into the Shuswap country, where they were almost exterminated. Peace was sometimes made between the Upper Thompsons and Shuswap by the giving of the daughter of some noted warrior or war-chief of the one tribe to the son of a war-chief of the other. The intercession of an orator or chief who favored peace would at times avert war, and fighting would give way to feasting.

The slaves taken in war by the Lower Thompsons were Indians from Lower Fraser River, while those taken by the upper division of the tribe were mostly Lower Lillooet. The Shuswap and Upper Thompsons seldom captured slaves from each other; but, when this did happen, they were taken back by force of arms, purchased by their friends, or, after some years, allowed to escape. Formerly there were many Lillooet slaves among the upper divisions of the tribe; but most of them were purchased by the chief Cixpe'nlem, or his father, about 1850, and taken back to their country. Most of those taken in war and enslaved were young women, and sometimes boys and girls. A warrior who took many slaves sold most of them when he reached home.

In former times the Lytton, Spences Bridge, and Nicola bands were considered the most warlike divisions of the tribe, while the Upper Fraser band and the Lower Thompsons were looked upon as less warlike and less skilled, and were to some degree looked down upon by the former groups. The Lower Lillooet and the Coast tribes were also considered very unwarlike and, even yet