

NOTES ON THE TINNEH OR CHEPEWYAN INDIANS OF BRITISH AND RUSSIAN AMERICA.

1. The *Eastern Tinnch*, from a MS., by BERNARD R. ROSS, Esq., honorable Hudson's Bay Company.
2. The *Loucheux Indians*, by WILLIAM L. HARDISTY, Esq., honorable Hudson's Bay Company.
3. The *Kutchin tribes*, by STRACHAN JONES, Esq., honorable Hudson's Bay Company.

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THE above tribes are embraced in the *Athabaskan* group in Mr. Gallatin's classification of the Indian tribes, (*Trans. Am. Eth. Soc.*, vol. ii,) but that name, according to Mr. Ross, is a foreign word, applicable only to a particular locality. The name of *Chepewyan*, given to the eastern tribes by most of the early writers, is merely a compound Cree word relating to dress. Sir John Richardson (*Boat Voyage through Rupert's Land*) adopts, and upon a more correct and philosophical principle, the name *Tin-neh*, which Mr. Ross says, though given in the vocabularies for "man," means rather "the people." It seems to be the appellation which each tribe applies to itself, other branches being distinguished by a prefix relating to locality, or some peculiarity of dress or appearance. Thus, while the Chepewyans call themselves Tin-neh, they call the "Slaves" *Tess-cho-tin-neh*, or the people of the Great river, (*Mackenzie's*.)

This family, the most northern in America excepting the Eskimo, is, at the same time, the most widely distributed, its range extending from the shores of Hudson's bay to the Pacific, where it is represented on Cook's inlet by the Kenai and other allied tribes. Several tribes, known collectively as the Tahkali, Tácully, or Carriers, inhabit the upper waters of Fraser river, extending south to Fort Alexandria, in about latitude 52° 30'. Near the mouth of the Columbia two small bands, now nearly extinct, inhabited the wooded country on either side of the river, and others are located on the Umpqua, Rogue river, and the coast of southern Oregon, and on the Trinity or south fork of the Klamath, in northern California. Finally, the same race, as shown by affinity of language, appears in Arizona, New Mexico, and Chihuahua, under the names of Navajoes and Apaches. The papers mentioned at the head of this article, and which follow, all refer to the northern branches, but do not include those of the Pacific coast.

Mr. Ross divides the northern portion of this great family into—

- I. The eastern or Tinnch tribes proper.
- II. The mountain tribes.
- III. The western, consisting, so far as British America is concerned, of the Tahkalis.
- IV. The northern, including all the Kutchin or Loucheux tribes.

It is to the first of these that the portion of his own notes here given refers. Mr. Hardisty's and Mr. Jones's relate to the last.