

days of these latter travelers, the Amahamis may have submitted to the authority of the Minnetaree chief.

In one instance, Lewis and Clarke spell the name of this tribe "Arwacahwas".* In 1834, their village stood on the same ground that it occupied in 1804; at both of these dates it bore the same Indian names,† and the people bore the same French name;‡ yet Maximilian, aided by his interpreter, failed to recognize the resemblance between the name of the tribe as written by Lewis and Clarke and "Awachawi", as he, according to German orthography, so correctly spells it. Such, at least, is the impression produced by the perusal of the foot-note on page 335 of his work. In this note, too, Maximilian, in criticising Lewis and Clarke's spelling, does not make due allowance for the fact that the American travelers wrote in a language whose alphabet is less suited to express the Indian words than that of the language in which he wrote.

The descendants of the Amahamis, among the Hidatsa, are now known from the rest of this tribe by their preference for certain words and dialectic forms, which are not in common use among those of unmixed Hidatsa blood, and did not originally belong to the language of the latter.

§12. POPULATION.—The population of the village is not known. It is said that the inhabitants of some of the old villages allowed a census to be taken immediately before the epidemic which proved so fatal to them. They believed that their calamity resulted from the census, and have since resisted all efforts to ascertain their numbers. Many ingenious plans have been devised for counting them without their knowledge, but they have suspected and thwarted them all. In the *Reports of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs*, various estimates of their strength may be found, but they are all conjectural. In the *Report* of 1862, it is stated§ that the Grosventres and Mandans, in that year, numbered 1,120, and the Arickarees (then in a separate but neighboring village) 1,000,—total 2,120. In

* p. 89.

† Lewis and Clarke, p. 89, "Mahawha".—Maximilian, p. 335, "Machacha".

‡ Lewis and Clarke, p. 96, "called by the French Soulier Noir, or Shoe Indians."

—Maximilian, p. 178, "Le village des Souliers."

§ Pages 193 and 195, in Report of Agent S. N. Latta to the Commissioner.