

p. 238.) In the elaborate alphabetical enumeration of Indian tribes and Nations, upward of 400 in number, prefixed to Drake's well-known Book of the Indians: 10th Edit., 1848.—we find the estimated numbers of a large proportion of them stated, but being of a great variety of dates, and the data probably of very variable authority, no general estimate can be based on it, without an analysis much more laborious, than the result is likely to be accurate.

In the course of a couple of summers spent a few years ago in the Hudson's Bay territory, I took pains to arrive at an estimate of the actual numbers of Indians inhabiting that country, by enquiries among the resident traders, and by procuring whenever possible, a specific statement of the number of hunters frequenting each Post, the number of young unmarried men, and an estimate of their families. The two first were, no doubt, ascertained very correctly, as far as the enquiry went; the last does not admit of much doubt. With respect to the districts which I visited but from which I did not procure these data, it is not difficult to base a tolerable approximation on the information derived from observation and inquiry, and in respect to those which I did not visit, which however form but a small part of the territory, I am guided in the estimate by the facts that where there are no trading posts, there are no Indians, and that where there are trading posts, all the Indians of the district frequent them, habit having rendered the articles of European trade essential to their existence; consequently we may infer the number frequenting any given post, pretty nearly, when the scale of the establishment is known. There are, perhaps, a few exceptions to this remark in the district of Mackenzie's River, where our intercourse with many tribes is of recent origin; but it is true almost everywhere else. Whenever a conjectural addition was made, by well-informed persons, on the spot, to the more precise numbers, it has been included in the following enumeration.

The British territory in relation to its native population, may be divided into four regions. *First*.—The region west of the Rocky Mountains, and north of the parallel of 49° . *Second*.—The region east of the Rocky Mountains, but north of the parallel of 55° ; the whole of which is inhabited by tribes of a common origin, and grouped by Ethnologists under the generic designation of "Tinné." *Third*.—The region from the parallel of 55° to 49° , occupied partly by tribes of what is called the Eythinyuwuk or Algonquin stock, and partly by tribes of an intrusive race kindred to the Iroquois or Five Nations. Lastly, —the British Colonies.