

must have been the last to cross into the American continent and have kept most vivid the remembrance of such a passage. Here is what Petitot writes by way of describing the dog-like enemies of the Dénés of old:

"Les Loucheux nous les dépeignent comme très vaillants mais immoraux et allant presque nus. A la guerre ils portaient des casques de bois, des boucliers en peau très dure suspendus à l'épaule et un vêtement recouvert d'écailles (cuirasses). Leurs armes, disaient-ils, étaient des couteaux tranchants liés au bout d'une perche (lances)".¹

This description of the Dénés' former enemies, in whom Petitot would fain see a very distant nation, fits admirably the natives of northeastern Asia, the inhabitants of the Fox and Aleutian Islands, and even the Kollush or Tlingets of the Alaskan littoral.

To the simple-minded and much more reserved Dénés, all those tribes are the very essence of immorality and lasciviousness. I have myself time and again heard the Carriers characterize them as dogs, and such travellers as saw them before they had adopted some of our ways are at one in chronicling the entire lack of restraint of those people.

Speaking of the Fox Islanders Coxe remarks that "they do not observe any rules of decency, but follow all the calls of nature publicly and without the least reserve. They wash themselves in their own urine".²

This last particular is also recorded of the Tchuktchis of Asia.³

As to the shaving of the head, G. Sarytchew says that the Aleutians "cut the hair of the forepart of the head".⁴ Of another tribe, whose habitat is likewise between the two continents, the same traveller has it that "they cut off all their hair, except one tuft on the crown".⁵ Coxe himself writes of the aborigines of Unalaska that "the men shave with a sharp stone or knife the circumference and top of the head",⁶ while Shelekov says of the "Konæges" that among them "both men and women cut [the hair] about the head".⁷

With regard to the Dénés' traditional enemies going "almost naked", this is just as true of most of the Aleutians, Eskimos, Tlingets and

¹ *Ibid.*

² "Account of the Russian Discoveries between Asia and America", p. 175; London 1787.

³ S. Muller, "Voyages from Asia to America", p. XXVII.

⁴ "Account of a Voyage of Discovery to the North-East of Siberia", Vol. II, p. 9. London, 1806.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *ibid.*, p. 18.

⁶ *Op. cit.*, p. 176. See also p. 197.

⁷ "The Voyage of Gregory Shelekov, a Russian, from Okhotsk, on the Eastern Ocean, to the Coast of America", p. 36.