

It appears that ethnological errors, like historical lies, die hard. My attention was lately called to an interesting article in the Christmas number of the *Mining Record*, wherein the author declares unhesitatingly that "the Tsimpsians... are of Tinneh origin"*. By "Tinneh"—a term I have time and again shown to be inappropriate and which is now obsolescent—Mr. J. W. Mac-Kay, the writer of the article, means the Déné. This gentleman was perfectly excusable for being unacquainted with a statement published in a periodical which hardly circulates outside of a certain scientific world; but how he could to-day ignore a plain remark as Mr. Gosnell's printed in a book destined for the general reader and wherein he had himself an article†, is more than I can say. Unless, of course, he chooses to controvert the appositeness of my assertion? Indeed, it could truly be said that if his statement in the *Mining Record* is not intended as a reflection on my accuracy, he lays himself open to the charge of carelessness.

Now, professional ethnologists are well aware of my unparalleled opportunities for studying the whole Déné race during the last twenty years or more. They know that for long, weary years I have been living and working among four of its British Columbia tribes, the languages of which I have sufficiently mastered to be now engaged in the preparation of their grammars and dictionaries for publication. On the other hand, my incessant peregrinations bring me in yearly contact with populations of Tsimpsonian parentage, and thus I have been able to study and compare both races. Now, while it may be questionable whether some of the British Columbia stocks of aborigines now commonly held to be distinct will not, as a result of further investigations, be ultimately recognized as co-affin, there can not be the shadow of a doubt that the Déné race is absolutely different from all other B. C. stocks, the Tsimpsonian more, if possible, than any other.

Its psychological traits are distinct, its physique peculiar, and its languages have nothing in common, either in grammar or in

* P. 75.

† "The Fur Trading System", p. 21.