

i. e., about the year 1764, the Anahamis and the people of Annatiha dwelt farther south, in the neighborhood of Heart River, along with the Rees and Mandans; and it is likely that the people of Hidatsa lived there at the same time, or at an earlier date.

At one time, the Crows and the Hidatsa (under which term I will now include all the bands represented in the present tribe) lived in close proximity to one another, and constituted one nation; not, probably, one consolidated tribe under a single chief, but independent and allied bands, making common cause against other races, and speaking slightly different dialects, like the various bands of the Dakota nation to-day. In the course of time, the Crows, in two bands, separated from the Hidatsa, and moved farther to the south and west, becoming estranged from the latter but not inimical to them. This separation took place, doubtlessly, more than one hundred, and probably not less than two hundred, years ago.

The Hidatsa and Crow legends agree closely concerning the secession of the Crows, and their story is essentially as follows: During a season of scarcity, while portions of both peoples were encamped together, a single buffalo came in the neighborhood of the camp and was killed by some of the Hidatsa, who offered the paunch to the Crows. The latter, considering the offer illiberal, refused it, and a misunderstanding ensued, which resulted in separation. The Hidatsa have ever since called the Crows by the name of Kihatsa, or *they (who) refused the paunch*. (See kihatsa in Dictionary.) It may reasonably be doubted that such an incident as this, of itself, and without previous disagreements, would have been sufficient to have alienated these bands from one another; yet it is not improbable, if, as some say, there was, among the party of slighted Crows, a very proud and powerful chief, who regarded the action of the Hidatsa hunters as a personal insult. It is more likely, however, that they parted in consequence of some general misunderstanding concerning the division of game (and other matters perhaps), which may have culminated in some particular quarrel. There is no good reason for supposing the legend to be without foundation in fact. Laws con-