

Opposite to them, west of the Rocky Mountains, in a small angle at the heads of the branch of the Columbia, are the Koutananais, a small tribe, numbering in 1848 in all 829 souls. These are isolated from all the surrounding races, and I have never been able to trace their connexion. Adjoining them are the Sacliss (called by the Black-feet "Flatheads") who with their congeners the Shewhampmuch extend nearly to Alexandria, meeting the Táh-Cully branch of the Tinneh race as already mentioned. To the Shewhampmuch the Tah-Cully apply the same name of "Atnah" (= Stranger Race); to their neighbors wesward Atnah-yore. Mackenzie who descended the Fraser no lower than the Táh-Cully frontier, and had with him no interpreters through whom to communicate freely with the few men of the lower nation whom he there met. He was thus led to adopt the term "Atnah" as the true name of the tribe—adding, however, the alternative "Chin" which has in reality no existence. The late Mr. Geo. Gibbs, shortly before his death, wrote to enquire the origin of the latter name. To this enquiry I had no opportunity of replying; and may now state that I believe it to have arisen from misapprehension of the meaning of the Indians while referring to the principal village, or at least that in the most prominent position, at the confluence of the Thompson with the Fraser. This is called *Thlik-um cheen* (or-chin), the first two syllables very rapidly pronounced, and the last strongly dwelt upon. To this village the natives, both above and below, are fond of referring, apparently with some pride, as the chief seat of their section of the general tribe: and the conspicuous syllable dwelling on the ear of Mackenzie, led him, I imagine, to suppose it was the name given by themselves to their nation. I notice that the late Mr. Simon Fraser, who with Mr. John Stuart first descended the river, now named after the former, in 1808, and a M.S. copy of whose Journal is now before me, was partially misled in the same probable way. He gives the name of the village (but not as of the people) as *Cum-chin*. The whole ordinary nomenclature of Indian tribes, however, such connexion invariably giving a different, and derisive name, originating in some imputed or imagined characteristic (e.g. Blackfoot, Flathead, Slave, &c.), requires to be received with much caution. For this reason, and to avoid the endless confusion of names, I have along the north-west coast reduced them in the map as much as