

But even though this statement were correct, we must not forget that it is a well known practice of the native mind to transfer to places within its actual knowledge and vicinity the scenes of the happenings handed down by the ancestors.

But a correspondent of mine, Father Leopold Ostermann, O.F.M., who has long and faithfully laboured among the Navahoes and whose pen has yielded valuable information concerning that important tribe,<sup>1</sup> wrote but a few years ago:

"The Navajos have a faint tradition of other Navajos, or Diné, away to the North, whom they call 'Déné nahodloni', *i.e.* 'they who are also Navajos' . . . They even tell of a party of Navajos who once set out to look up the Déné Nahodloni, and say that their hunters found their fellow-tribesmen, stayed with them a short time, and then returned to their homes in the south, after their northern kin had refused to go with them".<sup>2</sup>

In a private letter to me Father Leopold confirmed his printed statement by adding:

"Most of the old Navajos, at least all the old-timers whom I have asked, know something about the Déné Nahodloni . . . They know that somewhere, at a great distance, there are 'people who are also Déné', who speak their language, and who at one time were one people with themselves. They do not mean the Apaches, for the Apaches have time and again made themselves very clearly and distinctly known to the Navajos. The home of the Déné Nahodloni is said by some to be in the north, by others in the northwest; most of them do not know in which direction to place it".<sup>3</sup>

These declarations by one who has first-hand knowledge of what he writes about must for ever set at rest the question of the origin of the Navajos, and convince the reader that the southernmost of all the Déné tribes really came from the north or the northwest.

## VII.

Physiology, sociology and technology are at one in confirming us in the belief that the whole of the so important aboriginal family which we call, or rather which calls itself, Déné is a relatively late arrival on the continent of America. I shall not dwell on the similarity of the

<sup>1</sup> As far as numbers go the Navahoes form what I believe to be the most important tribe of all North America outside of Mexico. They are to-day estimated at no less than 28,500 souls.

<sup>2</sup> The Catholic Pioneer, Oct. 1905.

<sup>3</sup> December 27, 1905.