

A SIMPLE QUESTION OF PROVINCIAL ETHNOGRAPHY.

(Written for the "Proceedings" of the Natural History Society
of British Columbia*)

Twelve years have already elapsed since, in the course of a detailed paper partly intended to correct many an erroneous statement regarding the ethnological status of the Déné family of aboriginal Americans, I had occasion to write: "Some ethnographers, for reasons known to themselves, regard the Tsimpisians... as an offshoot of the Déné or Athapaskan stock. But even a slight knowledge of their language and physical characteristics ought to convince any one of the fact that they are altogether heterogeneous thereto"†.

This remark, confined as it was to the comparatively narrow limits of a periodical published by a scientific society, does not seem to have attracted much attention, and people must have continued to class the Tsimpisians as blood relatives of the Dénés, since, in the chapter devoted by the author of the Year-Book of British Columbia, Mr. R. E. Gosnell, after having allowed Prof. Chas. Hill-Tout to quote my classification of the Déné tribes, remarks: "It will be observed that Rev. Father Morice does not include among the Dénés either the Tsimpisians or the Kootenais"‡.

* I never saw this paper in print: the last news I had of it reached me almost two years ago, when it was stated that it was in type, ready for the pressman.

† "The Western Dénés", p. 111.

‡ P. 174.