

inhabited by very wicked people, and had traversed a great lake,*which was narrow, shallow and full of islands, where they had suffered great misery, it being always winter, with ice and deep snow".¹

If we are to believe Franklin, the Rocky Mountain Indians are even more explicit on this head. They claim that "they came originally from the westward, from a level country, where there was no winter, which produced trees and large fruits now unknown to them. It was inhabited by many strange animals, amongst which there was a small one whose visage bore a striking resemblance to the human countenance.² During their residence in this land, their ancestors were visited by a man who healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed many other miracles, enjoining them at the same time to lead good lives, and not eat of the entrails of animals, nor use the brains for dressing skins until after the third day; and never to leave the skull of deer upon the ground within the reach of dogs and wolves, but to hang them carefully upon trees. No one knew from whence this good man came, or whither he went.

"They were driven from that land by the rising of the waters, and, following the tracks of animals on the sea-shore, they directed their course to the northward. At length they came to a *strait*, which they crossed upon a raft, but the sea has since frozen, and they have never been able to return".³

So much for the Chippewayans and the Rocky Mountain Indians. The northernmost Déné tribes are the Hares and the Loucheux. In the early sixties Father Petitot, who could speak their languages, recorded the following from the mouths of the former:

"Ils habitaient jadis bien loin dans l'occident, au-delà de la mer et au milieu d'une nation fort puissante, chez laquelle les magiciens avaient le pouvoir de se transformer en chiens ou en loups durant la nuit, tandis qu'ils redevenaient hommes pendant le jour. Ces ennemis avaient pris des femmes parmi les Dénés, mais ces créatures ne participaient en rien aux pratiques occultes de leurs maris.

"Ces ennemis, les Peaux-de-Lièvre les nomment *Kfwi-déidélé* (têtes pelées); car ils se rasaient la tête et portaient perruque".⁴

The Loucheux have their habitat both in the Lower Mackenzie basin and in the Yukon and Alaska. They are, therefore, those who

¹ "Voyages from Montreal through the Continent of North America", p. CLXIII of his preface (Toronto reprint).

² Evidently some kind of *Simüda*, none of which is to be found in America. Father Petitot also records a similar tradition.

³ *Op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 293.

⁴ *Essai sur l'Origine des Déné-Dindjié*, p. XXVIII.