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THE WESTERN DÉNÉS—THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

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So far, very little and, to my knowledge, no reliable information has ever been published concerning the ethnology and sociology of the Indian tribes inhabiting that northern part of British Columbia originally known as New Caledonia. It is not because they have been altogether ignored by English-speaking ethnographers; but for one reason or another, whenever they are attended to in scientific papers, it has never been with satisfactory accuracy. No later than four years ago the Smithsonian Report contained a paper on Anthropology by Otis T. Mason, wherein I found¹ the following, purporting to be a classification of the "Tinneh or Athabaskan"² tribes, including the Western Dénés.

Western Tinneh.

- Kai'-yüh-kho-ta'nā.
- Ko-yu'küh-o-tā'-nā.
- Un'-ā kho-tā'-na.

Kut-chin Tribes.

- Ten'-an-küt-chin'.
- Tennüth-küt-chin'.
- Tat-sah'küb-chin'.
- Küt-chā-küt-chin'.
- Nahsit'küb-chin'.
- Vunta'küb-chin'.
- Hai-än-kub-chin'.

¹First part of the Report, etc., for 1885, page 832.

²At the risk of appearing unnecessarily fastidious may I be allowed to remark here that either term, Tinneh or Athabaskan, seems ill chosen to designate that vast family of aborigines they are made to represent? Athabaskan is local and consequently should not be applied to the whole stock, whilst Tinneh, if anything, does not mean what it is intended for. Indian languages, especially that of the tribes in question, are exceedingly delicate, and a very light phonetic shade, which the uninitiated will often fail to perceive, always changes the sense of the word. Tinneh, which evidently stands here for Déné, "men" (the name most of the tribes call themselves by) would rather remind a Western Déné of the berry of what is vulgarly called "kinniknik" (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) than of the genus *homo*! Others give them the name of Tinne, calling them thereby "Four" persons.

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