

bled much the log-cabins of our own western pioneers. They were neatly built, very warm, had regular fire-places and chimneys built of sticks and mud, and square holes in the roofs for the admission of light. Ten years ago, there were some cabins of this description in the permanent village at Fort Berthold; every year since, they are becoming gradually more numerous and threaten to eventually supplant the original earth-covered lodges. By reference to the note on page 4, it will be seen that, in 1871, the former outnumbered the latter by about nineteen.

Skin-lodges.—The practice of building winter-quarters is now abandoned. As game has recently become very scarce in their country, they are obliged to travel immense distances, and almost constantly, when they go out on their winter-hunts. Requiring, therefore, movable habitations, they take with them, on their journeys, the ordinary skin-lodges, or "tepees", such as are used by the Dakotas, Assiniboines, and other nomadic tribes in this region. Such lodges, too, they have always used on their summer-hunts, and on all long journeys except with war-parties. The skin-lodges of the prairie Indians have been so often described and depicted that any further reference to them in this paper would be unnecessary. It is enough to say that the tribes here considered, construct them in the same manner as do their neighbors, often ornamenting them with paintings, quill-embroideries, and other decorations.

Hunting-lodges.—In one of his "Solitary Rambles", Palliser found, on the Turtle Mountain, four days journey from Fort Berthold, in the spring of 1858, a Minnetaree hunting-lodge of which he says:—"They had built a triangular lodge of long wooden poles, like hop-poles, piling them in the shape of a cone, and so closely as to render the hut bullet-proof, a necessary precaution, as they could never venture there save in fear of their lives, the position lying in the regular pass of the Sioux, when they go to war with either them or the Crows. We took possession of the hut, not sorry to feel ourselves in a bullet-proof shelter, in a place where, I must admit, we ran some risk of being surprised by an Indian war-party."*

* p. 266.