

of any such mistake on his own part and to the fact that Petitot's assertions were based on a "curious misreading of his [Dall's] text".

I am certainly grateful to Mr. Wardle for having thus called my attention to that rectification, for, as he well surmises, I had never seen it, as I do not possess the work wherein it is to be found. This being the case, some might not see clearly how I have been discourteous, and if injustice there has been, it has proceeded merely from ignorance. Persons conversant with my position in the wilds of northern British Columbia will hardly expect me to be familiar with the whole range of the literature bearing on a particular subject. More favored writers there are, as my critic will soon see, who err occasionally for not having noticed statements well within their reach. And, then, I make bold to say that even Father Petitot is not without an excuse, since Dall, in his very rectification, mixes up those he calls the Ahtena with the Yellowknife and Nah'ane Indians, three very distinct tribes which he takes, after Ross, to be one under three different names.

But this is a side issue.

The main point in dispute is this: Are there really two "tribes known as Atnah, one to the northwest, the other in the southwest, a Tinné [Déné] and a non Tinné people?"

Mr. Wardle says this is "evident", and both Dall and Powell have long implicitly made the same assertion. As to my own answer to that query, I have nothing to offer but my initial statements.

In the eyes of the northern Dénés, who says Atna says foreigner, and therefore I fail to see how there could be any Déné Atna tribe. The two terms are contradictory. My Carrier Indians are especially familiar with two races of Atnas (*Ætna*, not *Elna*, in their dialect), viz.: the Tsimpsons in the northwest and the Shushwaps in the south, while the Nah'anais (or more properly the Nah'ane) know better the Tjingets and the Tsimpsons under that designation or its equivalent* in their idiom. While heterogeners of all descriptions, but more parti-

* *Shakhane* in the plural.