

INDIANS.—The Chipewyan race, who for convenience sake are now classed as the “Dinnee” or “Tinneh” tribes, occupy as will be seen a very extensive tract. They have evidently been great wanderers; for to them the isolated sept of the Sarcees of the Saskatchewan owes its origin; and a similar offset, the *Klatskanai* (now extinct), not very long ago inhabited the highlands beyond the mouth of the Columbia River, while traces of the language appear even farther south. *Dinnee* means literally a man, but is sometimes applied in the plural sense, as *Abahtodinnee*, the Mountain-men, &c.; and Sir A. Mackenzie’s interpreters, who were from Peace River, so applied it, calling *Nascudinnee* those whom we now know as the *Nascotin*, i. e. People of the *Nas-accôh* (Mackenzie’s “West-road River.”) Generally, however, the term is pluralized by changing it, eastward of the Rocky Mountains, into *hânie*, westward into *otin*, as *Sik-hanie* (or rather *Tsack-hânie*) People of the stones or rocks, &c. *Nascotin* (as above): *Chilo-otin*, People of the *Chil-accôh* (River), &c. In the Alaska-section this affix is changed into *Koochin*, having the same obvious signification. The Tâh-Cully-(otin) Branch, i. e. “People of the deep” (waters being probably understood) inhabit the upper waters of the Fraser, bounded southward by the *Shewhaphmuch* (ch guttural) or *Sacliss* connexion (Atnah or “chin” of Mackenzie). Eastward of the Rocky Mountains the Chipewyans are bounded on the east by the Crees, who pass round the south end of Lake Winnipeg, and continue round the circuit of Hudson’s Bay and through Labrador, to Hudson’s Strait. Adjoining the Crees, and following along the upper Lakes and down the Ottawa River, &c., are the Algonquins or Sautaux, called also Ojibways or Chippeways. These are merely a branch of the Crees, and talk a dialect of the same language. The Assineboines are a branch of the Nadowasis or Sioux, and bound the Crees on the south along the course of the upper north Saskatchewan; succeeded on the west by the Sarcees, the small isolated tribe already noticed. A few families of Assineboines, abandoning the Prairie habit of the rest, frequent the heads of the Athabasca, among the “strong woods” (whence their distinctive appellation) and are now intercepted by the neighbouring tribes from the remainder of their race. The Black-feet, divided into several septs, as Gros Ventres, Blood Indians, &c., inhabit the prairie tract along the heads of the Saskatchewan and Missouri towards the border of the Sioux.

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