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THE SARCEE INDIANS.

By Rev. E. F. Wilson.

HE Sarcee Indians belong to the great Athabascan or Tinneh stock. This stock has attracted much attention from ethnologists, partly from the peculiar character of its members, and partly from its wide diffusion, in which respect, it may be compared with the Aryan and Semitic families of the Old World. It occupies the whole northern portion of the American continent, from Hudson Bay to the Rocky Mountains, except the coasts, which belong to the Eskimo. Tinneh tribes also possess the interior of Alaska and British Columbia. Other scattered bands-Umpquas, Tlatskanais, and Kwalhioquas-are found in Oregon. The Hoopas and some smaller tribes live in Northern Cali-Thence, spreading eastward, Tinneh tribes, under various designations-Navahoes (or Navajos), Apaches, Lipanes, Pelones, Tontos, and others - are widely diffused over Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and the northern provinces of the Mexican Republic.

The Sarcees were formerly a powerful nation, but are now reduced to about three hundred. Their reserve, which consists of a fine tract of prairie land, about a hundred square miles in extent, adjoins that of the Blackfeet, in Alberta, a little south of the C.P.R. line, and seventy or eighty miles east of the Rocky Mountains. Although friendly and formerly confederate with the Blackfeet, they bear no affinity to that people; they belong to a distinct stock and speak an altogether different language. They are divided into two bandsthe Blood Sarcees and the Real Sarcees.

These people call the Blackfeet 'Katce,' the Crees 'Nishinna,' the Sioux 'Kaispa,' and themselves 'Soténnă.' The Indians of their own stock, as I understand, they call 'Tinnatte.' These two last names seem certainly to connect them with the great 'Tinneh' or Athabascan nation. Sarcee (or rather Sarxi) is the name by which they are called by the Blackfeet.

Their chief "Bull's Head," (Il-gat-si), is a tall, powerful man, about sixty years of age. The author of this paper had the honor of meeting him in the summer of 1888, and interrogated him as to their traditions, etc.



CHIEF "BULL'S HEAD."

extended from the Rocky Mountains to the Big River (either the Saskatchewan or the Peace River). Our lelight was to make corrals for the buffaloes, and to drive them over the cut bank and let them fall. Those were glorious days, when we could mount our swiftfooted horses, and ride like the wind after the flying herd; but now the buffalo is gone, we hang our heads, we are poor. And then, too, we used to fight those liars, the Crees: we engaged in many a bloody battle, and their bullets pierced our teepees. Thirty battles have I seen. When I was a child the Sarcees were in number like the grass; the Blackfeet and Bloods and Peigans were as nothing in comparison. Battles with the Crees and disease brought in among us by the white man have reduced us to our present pitiable state.'

Another Indian told us how the Sarcees were at one time one people with the Chipewyans, and gave us the myth which accounts for their separation. 'Formerly,' he said, 'we lived in the north country, We were many 'Formerly,' said 'Bull's Head,' 'the Sarcee territory thousands in number. We were travelling south. It