

Pickering, in the third chapter of his "Races of Man," assigns it to the Klamets or Lutuami of Oregon. Father Morice continues: "It would scarcely be proper to speak of war as an institution obtaining among the pre-historic Western Dénés. Although the various tribes despised and mistrusted each other, general fights were rare enough, and, as surprises constituted the main part of their system of warfare, it followed that success was, as a rule, on the side of the assailants. Sometimes the whole population of a village would be massacred in a single night. In that event, the victors would chant their hymn of victory, generally improvised on the spot and composed of the last words uttered by their victims. After their return from the fray, they would also repeat it dancing for several nights in succession. In no instance was scalping resorted to, at least, on this side of the Rockies." The wars of the Apaches and other southern tribes were more serious, but I possess no authentic details concerning them.

FUNERAL CUSTOMS OF THE TUNGUS AND THE DÉNÉS.

Abernethy remarks that, "the Tongusi evince a great deal of tenderness at the death of any of their family: their mourning sometimes lasts for a whole year. For several days they are commonly exposed on scaffolds within their cabins, and at other times near the place of interment. They bring them presents and food, which is consumed, they imagine, by their spirits." Mr. Macintosh quotes Santini and LaRoche as saying: "That the Tongusi and Coriaks mourn, for the deceased for a considerable time and that the pits and graves where the dead are to be carried must first be fumigated or incensed, by burning, rosin or some dried aromatic herbs." He also quotes Santini to the effect "that it was customary among the Tongusi and Coriaks to bury along with the dead, everything that was dear to them while alive, especially their arms and family distinctions." Sauer's record is very brief. "They do not like to bury their dead, but place the body, dressed in its best apparel, in a strong box, and suspend it between two trees. The implements of the chase belonging to the deceased are buried under the box. Except a sorcerer is very near, no ceremony is observed; but, in his presence, they kill a deer, offer a part to the demons and eat the rest."

Of the Chepewyans Mackenzie says: "That they should not bury their dead in their own country cannot be imputed to them as a custom arising from a savage insensibility, as they inhabit such high latitudes that the ground never thaws; but it is well known that, when they are in the woods, they cover their dead with trees. Besides, they manifest