

## WHO ARE THE ATNAS?

(From the AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN)

They are, to the Dénés of America, what the Etruscans were to the Romans (*alienigenæ, exteri*), what the Gentiles in general were to the Israelites, and the Philistines in particular to the Septuagint (*alophuloi*), in a word, what *foreigners* are to the English speaking peoples of to-day. As I wrote in 1894, ethnologists who suppose them to belong to the Déné or Athapaskan stock of aborigines make a mistake "either of name or of identification. Atna, etc., is a Déné word which means foreigner, heterogener, and is used to qualify *all* races which are *not* Déné. Either, then, the Atnas of the travelers and ethnographers are not Déné, or, if they belong to that race, they must be misnamed"\*.

Now, in some "Notes on the designation Atna", published in a late number of the *American Antiquarian*†, Mr. H. Newell Wardle implicitly accuses me of discourtesy in general and, in particular, of injustice to Mr. W. Dall because, in a late article, I happened to write that, in classing the Atnas as Déné, "Major Powell has been misled by Mr. Dall who, in his turn, misunderstood Hearne"‡. I then explained, after Petitot, how the error originated, but am now referred to Dall's disclaimer

\* Notes on the Western Denes. Trans Can Inst., 1894, p. 17.

† Vol. xxiii, No. 2.

‡ On the Classifications of the Dene tribes, *ibid.* 1899, p. 80.