

This was among the Yakuts, and I am quoting from Sir Geo. Simpson. Speaking of infants, I may remind the reader of the long suckling practised by the Déné mothers, who quite often give the breast at the same time to two children, one of whom has been walking for a long time. Indeed, I remember a Carrier boy who must have been six or seven years old, at the very least, since he was big enough to learn a certain new hymn which he sang out to me for a consideration, and yet he was sucking his mother!

Now an English traveller among the Kirghis writes of a child of three or four running to its mother to be suckled, and adds: "You would be surprised to see boys of ten and eleven years of age feeding from the mother".¹

Of the Tungus children the same author says that "they invariably run about naked [in summer] until they are ten or twelve years old",² a remark which could not be truer of the children of the old Déné stock.

Face tattooing also prevailed to the same extent among those two aboriginal peoples.

According to Sir Geo. Simpson the Yakuts use "canoes of birch-bark, of the same peculiar shape as those of the Pend d'Oreille River, near Fort Colville",³ after which he goes on to relate that these canoes "also serve as coffins in the same manner as among the Chinooks and other tribes of the American coast".

The last mentioned craft are, of course, made of wood. They, too, have their equivalents in form and manufacture among the Kamtchadales, if we are to believe Bush, who mentions them as "dug-outs or hollowed logs", the very best description that can be given of the canoes of the Western Dénés.

The same primitive style of embarkation obtains among the Gilacks of the Amoor valley, as is repeatedly stated in a book of travel by a British naval officer.⁴

Bush further states that "to ensure safety when the water is rough, they [the Kamtchadales] lash two or more of them together, side by side, by binding light poles across the tops".⁵ I have myself seen many a time canoe rafts among the Babines and Carriers, and Hearne assures us that even the Eastern Dénés used to resort to the same prac-

¹ Mrs. Atkinson, "Recollections of Tartar Steppes and their Inhabitants", p. 178 London, 1863.

² *Ibid.*, p. 348.

³ *Op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 127.

⁴ J. M. Tronson, "A Voyage to Japan, Kamtschatka, Siberia, Tartary", pp. 135, 277, 323; London, 1859.

⁵ "Reindeer, Dogs and Snow-Shoes", p. 46.