

plexion, too, is more easily discernible among members of the village tribes than among members of roving bands who are more exposed to the weather. The presence of pale Indians in these tribes was noted by travelers in early days, before intermarriages with whites were common enough to have accounted for it.

Lewis and Clarke* and Gass† notice this fairness when speaking of the Mandans only, but their remarks are general. Catlin speaks of the fairness of the Mandans only, and supposes this peculiarity to arise from some pre-Columbian infusion of European blood.‡ The Prince of New Wied, who visited these tribes but one year later than Mr. Catlin, denies that the Mandans are of fairer complexion than their neighbors,§ while he asserts, at the same time, that, "after a thorough ablution, the skin of some of them appears almost white."|| I have heard old Mandans say that when the Minnetarees, including the Crows, first came among them, the strangers were a fairer race than they. Of the Crows, who, as before shown, once formed one nation with the Hidatsa, Colonel Reynolds, in his *Report of the Exploration of the Yellowstone* (1859), p. 48, says:—"The Crows are fairer than the Sioux, many of the mountain band being sallow and hardly a shade darker than whites who undergo similar exposure. This fact was so marked that the first seen were supposed to be half-breeds, but we were assured that they were of pure Indian descent."

It is not necessary to suppose an intermixture of European blood in order to account for lightness of color in an Indian. There is no reason why marked varieties of color should not arise in the Red Race as it has done in other races of men, and as it has so often done, under cultivation, within specific limits in the lower animals. I have seen full-blooded Indians who were whiter than some half-breeds and whiter than the darkest representatives of the Aryan Race. An increase of hairiness is a more reliable sign of Caucasian blood in an Indian than a diminution of color in the skin; and I never could discover that those fair Indians, claiming pure blood, were more hairy than others. The fairness of which I speak is not albinism,

* p. 89.

† p. 83.

‡ Okeepa, pp. 5, 42.

§ p. 334.

|| p. 337.