

Of these I have selected, as the subject of the present paper, the Chinooks, a tribe inhabiting the tract of country at the mouth of the Columbia river. Residing among the Flat-Heads, I remained from the fall of 1846 to the following autumn of 1847, and had consequently ample opportunity of becoming acquainted with the peculiar habits and customs of the tribe. They are governed by a Chief called Casenov. This name has no translation: the Indians on the west side of the Rocky Mountains differing from those on the east, in having hereditary names, to which no particular meaning appears to be attached, and the derivation of which is in many instances forgotten. Casenov is a man of advanced age, and resides principally at Fort Vancouver, about 90 miles from the mouth of the Columbia. I made a sketch of him while staying there, and obtained the following information as to his history:—Previous to 1829 Casenov was considered a great warrior, and could lead into the field 1,000 men, but in that year the Hudson's Bay Company and emigrants from the United States introduced the plough for the first time into Oregon, and the locality, hitherto considered one of the most healthy, was almost depopulated by the fever and ague.

Chinook Point, the principal settlement of the tribe, at the mouth of the river, where King Cumcomley ruled in 1811, was nearly reduced to one-half its numbers. The Klatsup village now contains but a small remnant of its former inhabitants. Wasiackum, Catlamet, Kullowith, the settlements at the mouth of the Cowlitz, Kallemo, Kattlepootle and Walkumup are entirely extinct as villages. On Sovey's Island there were formerly four villages but now there scarcely remains a lodge. They died of this disease in such numbers that their bodies lay unburied on the river's banks, and many were to be met with floating down the stream. The Hudson's Bay Company supplied them liberally with Quinine and other medicines, but the good effects of these were almost entirely counteracted by their mode of living and obstinacy in persisting in their own peculiar mode of treatment, which consisted principally in plunging into the river without reference to the particular crisis of the disease.

From these causes the numbers of the Indians have been very much reduced, and the effective power of the tribes so greatly diminished that the influence which Casenov owed to the number of his followers has correspondingly declined; his own immediate family consisting of ten wives, four children, and eighteen slaves, being reduced in one year to one wife, one child, and two slaves. Their decrease since that time has also been fearfully accelerated by the introduction of