

another in this language (see Grammar, ¶¶ 20, 22), and *s* is often used for *ts*, (see ¶ 17). "Metaharta" represents possibly an old or dialectic form of "midahadsa", *willow*, which was mispronounced by the interpreter, and spelled from his mispronunciation by Captains Lewis and Clarke in an ill-devised way.

*Other names.*—Hewaktokto, the name of this tribe in the Dakota language, I have heard translated *Dwellers on a Ridge*; but I think the correctness of this translation may be questioned. Some of the Hidatsa believe that the appellation belonged originally only to the Amahamis, whose name signifies *mountain*.

In the Arickaree language, the Hidatsa are called Witet-saán. I have heard this rendered in two ways, viz, *Well-dressed People* and *People at the Water*; the latter said to refer to their old residence at the ford of Knife River.

By the Crows, they are called Amaši, signifying *earthen houses* or "*dirt lodges*", as the Upper Missouri interpreters would say.

§ 19. HISTORY.—These Indians relate of themselves as follows: They originally dwelt beneath the surface of a great body of water, situated to the northeast of their present home. From this subaqueous residence some persons found their way out, and, discovering a country much better than that in which they resided, returned and gave to their people such glowing accounts of their discoveries that the whole people determined to come out. Owing to the breaking of a tree, on which they were climbing out of the lake, a great part of the tribe had to remain behind in the water, and are there yet. After coming from the water, they began to wander over the prairies, and sent out couriers to explore the country around. Those who were sent to the south returned after a time with tidings of a great river and a fertile valley, of a nation who dwelt in houses and tilled the soil. They brought back with them, too, corn and other products of the country. Toward this promised land, the tribe now directed its steps, and, guided by the couriers, they reached in due time the Mandan villages on the Missouri. When they arrived, however, instead of putting to death the newly-found people, they encamped quietly beside