

name of the Osseniboines, situated between 48 and 50° north lat. and 115° long. are kind and peaceable, and the number of their warriors amount to five or six hundred.

More to the west, at the foot of the Original mountains, which separates the waters of the Missouri from those of the river Catepoie, are the Chivitoans, to the number of two thousand: they are situated between 44 and 45° north lat. and 117° west long. at a little distance from the Missouri. If we proceed towards the north, along the mountains which seem to divide the lakes from the Pacific Ocean, we find, in the 50° lat. the nation of Piegans, composed of one thousand warriors. In the same latitude, but some degrees more to the west, the Sasacs, to the number of 400; the Pieds-noirs, to the number of 1500; and in the 54° the Castor nation, to the number of about six hundred.

All these nations, situated on different rivers, which all flow into the river Oupaw, may easily transport their skins to the lake Owinipike. On the river Oupaw, is the body of the Chistinous, mentioned above. Most of these nations consider the Whites as superior beings, under the special protection of the Great Spirit. Near to the lake Owinipike, in the 57° lat. and 110° west long. are the Schipiwans, to the number of eight hundred warriors; and on the east of the Owinipike, the Makigos, who amount to the same number.

From these nations the English obtain the principal part of their fine furs. In fact, instead of the thirty-six transportations by land, which they are obliged to employ to arrive at Lake Superior by that of Michigan, we can pass by one which is practicable during the whole year: they have, besides, seventy others before they reach the lake Owinipike. Some of these transportations present so great obstacles, that it requires the greatest strength and courage to surmount them; and, notwithstanding all their activity, they never reach their destination within a year. As we could make a voyage from New Orleans in less than a year, that is to say, before those that have left Quebec or Montreal have reached the nations with whom they traffic, what a superiority should we possess!

Although no one has ascended to the source of the Mississippi, the general opinion of travellers is, that it derives its waters from some of the north-western lakes. If so, we remain indisputed masters of this part of the continent; if otherwise, there is no doubt that a communication will shortly be found in the direction of the rivers that flow into it. Then a single transportation by land would be sufficient, instead of one hundred and six, which impede the trade of the English. But if this mean fails, the Missouri offers to us another, the facility of which is certain.