

Peter Dobell mentions also seeing among the Kamtchadales "a piece of timber placed against the edge of the hole, with notches cut in it to receive the feet—a miserable substitute for a ladder".¹

In the close vicinity of the Carriers' and other Dénés' homes is to be seen the aerial provision store, of which a figure and description will be found p. 196 of my above referred to "Notes". An equivalent of this prevails in Siberia, according to the explorer Bush, who writes: "Belonging to each house and erected on a scaffolding near by, several feet above the snow, out of the reach of dogs, were conical and pyramidal structures used as store-rooms".²

Before we leave the subject of aboriginal habitations, I may note another point of resemblance between Asia and America, in spite of its apparent insignificance. According to Col. N. Prjévalski, who refers to the Mongols among whom he travelled extensively, "même dans l'intérieur de sa iourte, un nomade dira: Tel objet est placé au nord ou à l'ouest".³ This is exactly the case with the Dénés who, though possessing terms denoting the right or left direction, never use them as we do. When it is a question of position, they invariably resort to such words as denote the points of the compass, even when the distance is insignificant.

Prjévalski also records that "dans la Mongolie orientale, avant de se séparer de son hôte, le voyageur échange avec lui de petites serviettes de soie comme gage de sympathie mutuelle".⁴ The Dénés have no such napkins, but we may be allowed to compare the custom of the Mongol with that of the Déné traveller who, before returning home or going on his journey, usually exchanges pieces of attire with his host, as a token of friendship. To come out of a place with the same garments is tantamount to an admission of disregard or contempt on the part of the person visited. It is so carefully guarded against that this mutual exchange of clothing occasionally gives rise to the most ludicrous costume, as the traveller always makes it a point of honour to wear on his return what has been given him.

Another explorer records the following: "In one of the houses which we entered to-day, I observed a child swaddled in a bag which was attached to a board, the whole being a counterpart of the cradle used among the Indians of North America".⁵

¹ "Travels in Kamtchatka and Siberia", vol. i, p. 90; London, 1830.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 351.

³ *Mongolie et Pays des Tangoutes*, p. 45; Paris, 1880.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 48.

⁵ Geo. Simpson, "An Overland Journey round the World", vol. II, p. 129 of American edition; Philadelphia, 1847.