

color; and their black leggins, or moccasons, have probably given them the name which they bear.

No tribe on the continent pays a greater attention to dress than the Blackfeet, unless it be their hereditary enemies, the Crows. Their apparel is not only more ample and comfortable than that of other Indians, but is exceedingly gaudy.

The Blackfeet construct their wigwams, or lodges, of buffalo skins, sewed together and made into the form of a tent. This is supported on the inside by twenty or thirty long poles, having an opening at the top to admit the light and let out the smoke. These lodges are taken down in a few minutes by the squaws, when they wish to change their residence, and are easily transported to any part of the country. They generally remove six or eight times in the course of a summer, following the immense herds of buffaloes as they range over the vast plains. The manner in which an encampment of Indians strike their tents, and transport them, is curious, and affords a novel and interesting sight to a traveller. The chief sends his runners, or criers through the village, a few hours before the removal is to be made, announcing his determination to decamp, and the hour fixed upon for the departure. The preparations are immediately made, and at the moment prescribed, the lodge of the chief is seen flapping in the wind, a part of the poles having been taken out from under it. This is the signal, and in one moment five or six hundred tall tents are seen waving and flapping in the wind, and in a minute more, are flat upon the ground. The horses and dogs are all ready, and each one is speedily