

grounds regularly in the season, and follow the same mode of changing their residences, as has been heretofore noticed when speaking of the Nisqually tribe. They use in general the simple rush mats on poles for their tents in summer, which, with the few necessities they have, are readily moved from place to place, on their horses. In this way, they pursue a regular round, and are to be found in the returning season, very near the same spot, if not actually on it. They ought, I think, to be deemed a wandering or nomadic race.

As far as our observations have gone,—and they have been confirmed by some of the intelligent officers of the Hudson Bay Company,—the Flatheads or Spokane tribe, hold an intermediate place, in their physical attributes, between the Indians of the coast and those of the Rocky Mountains. In stature and proportions, they are superior to the Lower Chinooks and Chickeeles tribe; but inferior to the Nez Percés. In bodily strength, they have been found much inferior to the whites.

Their usual dress is a shirt, leggins of deer-skin, and moccasins; all of which are much ornamented with fringes and beads. They wear a cap or handkerchief of some sort on their head: these, with a blanket, form their summer clothing; in winter, a buffalo-robe is added.

This tribe can scarcely be said to be under any general government; at least it is certain that none is regularly organized or acknowledged. They appear now to roam in small bands, as may best suit their temporary convenience; but these join for mutual support against their more powerful enemies, the Pikani or Blackfeet. In bygone days, these small tribes contended against each other with great bitterness; but by the beneficial influence exercised over them by the Hudson Bay Company, they have been induced to live together in peace, and intermarriages among the tribes now frequently take place; in which case, it is said, that the husband almost invariably joins the tribe to which his wife belongs, under the idea that among her own family and friends she will be better able to provide for her husband and children's wants. This also may proceed from the fact of the influence the women possess; for they always assume much authority in their tribe, and are held in high respect. They have charge of the lodge and the stores, and their consent is necessary for the use of them; for after coming into their possession, these articles are considered the women's own. Where such a state of things exists, it may readily be inferred that the domestic ties are not very weak; and they are reputed to have a strong affection for their children and nearest relatives. In this respect they are unlike the Nez Percés and some of the other tribes,