

At Fort Alexandria, in latitude $52^{\circ} 30' N.$, the point where the navigation of Fraser's river is begun by the northern brigade, on their way north, a chief trader resides. Twenty or thirty packs are made here, seven of which are beaver. A few cattle are kept at Alexandria, about which is the only small open space in the northern country that is cleared, the rest being covered with a dense forest, consisting principally of different species of firs, with some birch, willow, alder, poplar, and maple trees. The Nisicotins are a small tribe, and number *but twenty families*.

Fort George is another station, at the junction of Stuart's and Fraser's rivers. It has a few cattle, and provides during the year a few packs. A clerk of the Company is stationed there.

Fort Thompson, on the Kamloops river, lies in $50^{\circ} 38' N.$, longitude $120^{\circ} 7' 10'' W.$ Fraser's, Babine, and M'Leod's, on the lakes of the same names, together with that of Fort St. James, on Stuart's Lake, the residence of Mr. Ogden, are all places of trade, and yield a profitable return for the expenditure and labour employed in maintaining them. All these, as I have before stated, are under the direction of Mr. Ogden, who is a chief factor, and has charge of the department of New Caledonia. The Company are now extending their posts to the northward, behind the Russian settlements, where an officer of the Company (Mr. Campbell) has been exploring. During the summer, the travelling in this country is performed on horseback or in canoes; but in winter, when the ground is covered to a great depth with snow, and the rivers frozen, the only mode of journeying is on snow-shoes, or in sledges drawn by dogs. These animals draw a weight of two hundred pounds. The snow-shoes require to be six feet long and eighteen inches broad; and notwithstanding the encumbrance they might be supposed to cause, it is not uncommon for individuals in the Company's service to travel for days together a distance of thirty-five miles a day.

This part of the country is inhabited by the two great nations of the north, the Takali, and Atnahs or Shouswaps: the former are also known by the name of the Carriers. The limits occupied by these two nations are shown on the map. *The language of the Takali is a dialect of the great Chippewayan family, which, Mr. Ogden informs me, is spoken over the whole continent, as far as Hudson's Bay.* They do not extend to the coast, but have frequent contests with the coast tribes about Fort Simpson, although they never have actual war. On the east are the Siconi, who are a nation of hunters, living beyond the Rocky Mountains. They speak a dialect of the same language, but are totally different in their customs and character from the Carriers.