

The latter, indeed, differ from all the tribes around them, and the great family to which their language points them out as belonging. They are described as being of a lighter complexion than the more southern tribes. Their features are larger: this is particularly the case with the females. They somewhat resemble the Indians of the Columbia, but are a taller and better-looking race. The Carriers are excessively filthy in their habits, and they have the character of being equally depraved and prone to sexual indulgences. Among the women, chastity is said to be unknown. They are proverbially barren, and almost every individual is infected with that loathsome disease, the venereal. Abortion is constantly practised among them, both before and after marriage.

Formerly they dressed in robes made of marmot-skins, which are taken in great quantities on the Rocky Mountains. They are now clothed in articles of European manufacture, and obtain a plentiful supply of them.

Their houses are built after the fashion of log cabins, of small pine saplings, which are kept in an upright position by posts. The roof, unlike those of the southern tribes, is of bark. Their summer houses are often as much as seventy feet long, and about fifteen feet high. In winter they occupy dwellings of less size, which are often covered with grass and earth. Some of them live in excavations in the ground, which they cover with earth, leaving only an aperture in the roof, which serves both as an entrance for themselves, and as a vent for the smoke.

They live chiefly upon salmon, although there are some other kinds of fish which they take. They obtain, by hunting, a few deer, bears, and some smaller animals, which they eat or sell. Great numbers of wild-fowl, which, at times, almost cover their rivers and lakes, are captured by them.

They all prefer their meat putrid, and frequently keep it until it smells so strong as to be disgusting. Parts of the salmon they bury under ground for two or three months to putrefy, and the more it is decayed the greater delicacy they consider it.

Like the rest of the Indian tribes, they have their own peculiar manner of taking the fish, which is quite ingenious. For this purpose they build a weir across the stream, having an opening only in one place, at which they affix a basket three feet in diameter, with the mouth made somewhat like that of an eel-trap, through which alone the fish can find a passage. On the side of this basket is a hole, to which is attached a smaller basket, into which the fish pass from the large one, and cannot return or escape. This is soon filled, and be-