

in fastnesses among high mountains, to have good clothing and houses: to manufacture blankets, shoes, and various other articles, which they sell to the neighbouring tribes.

Their colour is as light as that of the Spaniards; and the women in particular are very beautiful, with delicate features, and long flowing hair. They are said to be very neat in their persons, dignified and decorous in their manners, and exceedingly modest. The story goes, that the hunters who saw them were so much pleased, that they determined to return and settle among them; but on their return to the Rocky Mountains, they were prevented by old associations. Some have attempted to connect these with an account of an ancient Welsh colony, which others had thought they discovered among the Mandans of the Missouri; while others were disposed to believe they might still exist in the Monkeys of the Western Mountains. There is another account, which speaks of the Monquoi Indians, who formerly inhabited Lower California, and were partially civilized by the Spanish missionaries; but who have left that country, and of whom all traces have long since been lost. Perhaps some future travellers may be able to discover them again, and give their true history; for that there exists a small tribe of different manners and habits from those who surround them, there appears to be but little doubt.

Though not immediately allied with my subject, yet some information which I obtained in relation to the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains, may be interesting. Between the Green and Arkansas rivers, are the Navahoes, and south of them the Apaches. These hover about the Spanish settlements, which they frequently ravage, and whence they carry off the children as slaves. The trappers informed us, that it was *no uncommon circumstance to see among them, Spanish boys, still speaking their own language, serving as slaves; and handsome white girls, living as wives to the haughty Apache warriors.*

One thing seems well established, that the tribes are gradually extending themselves to the southward, or rather, the more northern are encroaching on those of the south. It is well known, that what is now called the Blackfeet country was formerly possessed by the Snakes; and that the older men of the nation are well acquainted with this fact. The country now in possession of the Snakes, belonged to the Bonacks, who have been driven to the Sandy Desert. The Kiniwas and Camanches are instances of the same occurrence. This movement is attributed to the desire of each tribe to possess a more fertile soil and more genial climate; and to the exhaustion of game or emigration of the buffalo to the east. There are none of these animals now found west of the Youta Lake; and several years ago, according