

## The Assiniboin Tribe.

A large Siouan tribe, originally constituting a part of the Yanktonai. Their separation from the parent stem, to judge by the slight dialectal difference in the language, could not have greatly preceded the appearance of the whites, but it must have taken place before 1640, as the Jesuit Relation for that year mentions the Assiniboin as distinct. The Relation of 1658 places them in the vicinity of L. Alimibeg, between L. Superior and Hudson bay. On Jefferys' map of 1762 this name is applied to L. Nipigon, and on De l'Isle's map of 1703 to Rainy lake. From a tradition found in the widely scattered bodies of the tribe and heard by the first Europeans who visited the Dakota, the Assiniboin appear to have separated from their ancestral stem while the latter resided somewhere in the region about the headwaters of the Mississippi, whence they moved northward and joined the Cree. It is probable that they first settled about Lake of the Woods, then drifted northwestward to the region about L. Winnipeg, where they were living as early as 1670, and were thus located on Lahontan's map of 1691. Chauvignerie (1736) place them in the same region. Dobbs (Hudson Bay, 1744) located one division of the Assiniboin some distance N. W. of L. Winnipeg and the other immediately W. of an unidentified lake placed N. of L. Winnipeg. These divisions he distinguishes as Assiniboin of the Meadows and Assiniboin of the Woods. In 1775 Henry found the tribe scattered along Saskatchewan and Assiniboin rs., from the forest limit well up to the headwaters of the former, and this region, between the Sioux on the S. and the Siksika on the W., was the country over which they continued to range until gathered on reservations. Hayden limits their range at that time as follows: "The Northern Assiniboins roam over the country from the W. banks of the Saskatchewan and Assiniboin rs., in a W. direction to the Woody mts., N. and W. amongst some of the small outliers of the Rocky mts. E. of the Missouri, and on the banks of the small lakes frequently met with on the plains in that