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"Geographical Distribution."

In the Western district of Washington Territory: that is to say, between the Cascade mountains and the Pacific, there is found, compared with the extent of country occupied, an extraordinary diversity in the aboriginal tongues. Mr Gale the ethnologist who accompanied Capt. Wilkes' expedition, recognized among them eight languages belonging to five distinct families, and to these are now to be added six other languages, which escaped his observation. In addition there are dialects of several but partially intelligible even to those speaking the same general language.

As might be inferred, the tribes inhabiting this district are divided into bands having far less connection with each other than is the case with the Indians of the prairie, where a more wandering life bringing them continually into contact serves to keep up an identity in the common tongue. With all this diversity of speech, there is notwithstanding a general resemblance in character, manners and habits throughout the district, but modified by geographical position, and by other causes operating on both the physical and moral condition of the race. Among nations whose life is almost altogether sensual, the character is affected to a more perceptible degree by exterior circumstances than among the cultivated. Scarcity or abundance of food, its nature, the modes of obtaining it, the occupations and amusements of life,