then takes a line due west to the sea coast, within which the country is possessed by a people who speak their language and are consequently descended from them: there can be no doubt therefore, of their progressing to the eastward. A tribe of them is even known at the upper establishments on the Saskatchewan; and I do not pretend to say how far they may follow the Rocky Mountains to the east.

"It is not possible to form any just estimate of their numbers, but it is apparent, nevertheless, that they are by no means proportionate to the vast extent of their territories, which may in some degree, be attributed to the ravages of the small pox, which are, more or less, evident through this part of the continent."

The following notes are added: Respecting the Chepewyans east of the Mountains: "those of them who come to trade with us, do not exceed eight hundred men, and have a smattering of the Knistenaux tongue, in which they carry on their dealings with us."

The boundary as respects the sea coast is thus qualified: "The coast is inhabited on the North west by the Esquimaux, and on the Pacific Ocean by a people different from both."

Mackenzie's inference that the Chepewyans have migrated eastward is not supported by the facts more recently discovered respecting the range of this language. Even their tradition, which he gives, that they came from another country, crossing a great lake filled with islands, and where they suffered from perpetual winter, and first landed at the Coppermine river, would militate against it.*

An account of their manners and habits is appended, as also a vocabulary of about 140 words & phrases.

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* See an account of the discovery by Capt. McClure of large quantities of fossil trees, some pettified, some merely rotten on Banks' Land, north of the Coppermine R. quoted in Epes Sargent's "Arctic Adventure by Sea & Land" Boston, Phillips Sampson & Co. 1857. p. 376.