

There is also liable to be considerable wanton (from our point of view) destruction of property if the friends of the chief giving the Hōōks take it into their heads to do him honor. This they do by making him presents of articles of clothing, etc., but instead of putting them in his hand they put them in the fire, where they are quickly consumed. The chief then and there makes return presents also putting them in the fire, amid rounds of applause. To the Indian mind this is all *com-me il faut*.



**H**AVING thus touched upon the various ins and outs of the Potlatch system let us consider its influence upon the Indians.

Among those who practise, its influence is baneful in the last degree; it puffs up while exhausting, and its victims while being destroyed think they are being established; it presents an outward altruistic appearance, but is essentially egotistic; those who practise it think they are the pick of benevolence, whereas in reality they are most selfish; it is fatal to all idea of thrift and comfort in family life—to be thrifty is to be bad, to be economical is criminal; it is destructive of individual