

if I may so term it, varies with the nature of the country which it borders; bounded generally on the larger streams by the extent of unobstructed canoe navigation; elsewhere probably by the limit of the coast range of mountains, whence the smaller streams originate. For example, upon the Columbia River, the vicinity of the Cascades, about 120 miles from the sea; upon Frazer's River, the falls or first rapids, about 110. Nature it would hence appear, herself places a barrier which alike checks the future extension of the interior nations seaward, and prevents invasion of the coast tribes beyond the limits easily accessible with the canoes, in which from habit or necessity, all their excursions, whether of peace or war, are performed. The Esquimaux are the solitary exception to this general rule. Frequenting the islands and coast from the vicinity of Cook's inlet to the southern point of Labrador, they do not penetrate Hudson's Bay beyond a very limited distance from either point of the Straits. The Chipewyans succeed them for a short space on the Churchill shore; the Swamp Crees occupy the rest of the circuit.

The HARTLINS, to whom I have incidentally alluded as inhabiting the lower parts of Frazer's River, rarely venture to its mouth; where, as on the opposite shore of Vancouver's Island, the Ca-witchans, a bolder tribe, hold sway. Death, or slavery even worse than death, are the alternatives presented to the weaker among these tribes, when they are so hapless as to fall into the power of a more puissant neighbor. Palisaded villages and other precautions against surprise, show that even at home a ceaseless dread prevails. This state of insecurity, I may here mention, pervades the north west coast, more or less, according to the strength of each tribe relatively with that of the neighbors around.

The CA-WITCHANS, UCALTAS and COQUILTHS, who are, I believe of the same family, occupy the shores of the Gulf of Georgia and Johnston's Straits.

These are succeeded by the HAILTSA connexion, commencing in about latitude 51°

N. and extending through the ramifications of Fitzhugh and Milbank Sounds. The Hailtsa tribes communicate with the southern branches of the Ta-cully sept of New Caledonia, the Ta-otin, Chilcotin, and Nas-cotin, namely, of Alexandria.

The CHIMSEYAN connexion ensues; extending from Milbank Sound to Observatory Inlet, and including the Sebassas, Neeceelows, Nass, and other offsets. Language bold, sonorous and remarkably emphatic; contrasting broadly with that of the Hailtsa, which is softer, and comparatively of tame expression. The custom of flattening the head, practiced by the tribes between this and the Columbia River, does not exist here; ceasing with the Hailtsa, among whom it is confined to the females. To compensate for the absence of this one disfiguration, in itself to our ideas sufficiently revolting, another, immeasurably more so, is adopted—the lip-appendage. This is simply a piece of either hard wood or ivory, inserted into an aperture pierced in the lower lip. The females alone practice it. The first incision commences at an early age, the substance inserted not exceeding a straw in diameter. With advancing years, pieces of larger size and more complicated shape are substituted, and a harridan of the seventh lustre will display a labial deformity whose dimensions it might seem fabulous to describe. The Chimseyans communicate with the northern branches of the Ta-cully, the Na-ta-otin of Babine Lake, namely, and other neighboring septs.

Queen Charlotte's Island and Prince of Wales Archipelago are the country of the HAIDAHS; a numerous connexion including the Kygany, Massett, Skittgetts, Hanega, Cumshewas and other septs. Upon the foundation of their language, as upon that of the Chiheelis and Chinooks further south, a jargon has been constructed, serving as a *lingua franca* for trade, for some distance north of Milbank Sound. The Queen Charlotte's Island branches of this tribe were formerly less wealthy than those farther north; owing partly, it was said, to the comparative scarcity upon their lands of

x NB This jargon has since been supplanted by the Chinook