

of a London fur company, when he discovered other islands ahead of him. He came here through an entrance on the west coast, which has been known as Dixon's Entrance ever since. He then hoisted the British flag and named the islands after George the Third's queen, and they have been known by that name ever since. The first white men known to have landed upon the islands were a portion of the crew of the *Iphigenia*, under the command of Captain Douglas. They remained nine days in Parry Passage, in 1788, trading with the natives. The most extensive explorations made of any portion of the islands, were those of Captain Etienne Marchand, in the French ship *Solide*. In 1791 he examined the shores bordering on Parry Passage, and part of the west coast of Graham Island, commencing from Frederick Island southward. Since that time, although several parties of prospectors have visited various parts of the islands, no systematic effort has been made to thoroughly explore the entire group. During the last eight years I have resided at Massett, Graham Island, and am the only white man thoroughly conversant with the Haida language. The ancient tradition of the Haidas concerning their religion and creation, I have received verbally from some of the oldest chiefs. I have divided my subject into two parts, first "The Haida Deities;" second "The Haida Creation."

#### THE HAIDA DEITIES.

The ancient Haidas believed in two important gods, one as hierarch of the celestial sphere, and the other as sovereign of the lower regions. These two gods formerly lived together in happiness, attended by inferior gods, until a dispute arose as to the light and darkness. *Stranungetlagidas* was the name of one, and

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