

for a few minutes. He adds, "the little prisoners are remarkably good; no squalling disturbs an Indian camp." Turner says this practice is adopted to make them grow straight and afford the mothers convenience when handling them on a journey, or to prevent them rolling about the tent or into the fire. The bandages are removed once a day, and clean moss supplied. Most of these cradles have a strap, that passes over the woman's forehead whilst the cradle rides upon her back; and should the child die, this cradle becomes its coffin. Governor Stevens says the Blackfeet women carry their children in their arms, or in a robe behind their backs; and when travelling they are placed in sacks of skin on the tent poles. Adair, an old writer on Indian customs, says, "the children are very warm in their cradles and very easy, for besides furs, they put much down, taken from the bulrush, which they stuff in, or the pounded bark of the *peruche* (birch?), with which the women scour their hair to invigorate its growth. During its first years, the child is kept naked in the cabin, to keep its body from being injured by the air. When larger, they carry wood and water, which they regard as sport, and they are brought up like Spartans. The mothers suckle their young as long as they are able, and only wean them from necessity." He says, "I have seen children three and four years old at the breasts." Amongst the Flat-head Indians, it is in the cradle that the flattening process is made use of. The process is thus described by Swan, in his "Indians of Cape Flattery:" "The infant is lashed to a board by thongs, in a position from which it cannot escape, and the back of the head supported by a sort of pillow made of moss or rabbit-skins, with an inclined piece resting on the forehead, which is every day drawn down a little tighter, by means of a cord holding it in its place, until it at length touches the nose, thus forming a straight line from the crown of the head to the end of the nose. This process, though apparently cruel, does