

Dixon's description of their original dress.

older people use scarcely anything but a blanket as a protection from the elements. The blanket with these people has replaced the "robes of sea-otter skins" which so much pleased the eyes of the early traders. In Dixon's narrative* (p. 201) the sea-otter "cloaks" are said to "generally contain three good sea-otter skins, one of which is cut in two pieces; afterwards they are neatly sewed together so as to form a square, and are loosely tied about the shoulders with small leather strings fastened on each side." The women's dress is more particularly described on another page in the following terms:—"She was neatly dressed after their fashion. Her under garment, which was made of fine tanned leather, sat close to her body, and reached from her neck to the calf of her leg; her cloak or upper garment was rather coarser, and sat loose like a petticoat, and tied with leather strings."

These extracts both refer particularly to the Haidas, but in the general account of the natives of this part of the north-west coast, the dress of the people is more minutely described in the following paragraph:—"In their dress there is little variety; the men generally wearing coats (such as I have already described) made of such skins as fancy suggests or their success in hunting furnishes them with, and sometimes the loose cloak thrown over the shoulders and tied with small leather strings. Besides this, some of the more civilized sort, particularly those in Cook's River, wear a small piece of fur tied round the waist when the heat of the day causes them to throw their coat aside or they are disposed to sell it. The dress of the women differs in some respects from that of the men. Their under garment is made of fine tanned leather, and covers the body from the neck to the ankle, being tied in different parts to make it fit close; over this is tied a piece of tanned leather like an apron, and which reaches no higher than the waist. The upper garment is made in much the same manner as the men's coats, and generally of tanned leather, the women not caring to wear furs, as they were always unwilling to be stripped of their garments, which, should they happen to be worth purchasing, their husbands always insisted on their being sold. Indeed, the deportment of the women in general was decent, modest and becoming."

Armour.

In former days a sort of armour was worn, consisting of split sticks arranged in parallel order and combined with the stronger parts of the hide of the sea-lion. None of these suits can now, however, be found. A cloak or blanket very much prized by the Haidas and called *naxin* is obtained in trade from the Tshimsians. It is shaped somewhat like a shawl, with a blunt point behind, and surrounded by a deep and

* A Voyage Round the World, but more particularly to the North-west Coast of America. Performed in 1785, 1786, 1787 and 1788, in the *King George* and *Queen Charlotte*, Captains Portlock and Dixon. London, 1789.