

announcement of his death to all concerned by young men of another clan who were rewarded for their pains, the singing and dancing of a mercenary alien clansman, to the assembled mourners, meeting for several nights. The remains were then provisionally placed under a bark roof-like shelter, near which the widow and children dwelt in a small hut of similar form. For two or three years the widow was the slave of her husband's relations, and bewailed him. Then his chief representative, having acquired much property, was prepared for the cremation of what remained of the corpse. In view of a large assembly the funeral pile was kindled, and attempts were made to burn the widow, after which the property was given away in a potlatch. This was the Carrier custom, but among the Sékanais it was different. "Supposing the deceased was an influential person, dear to the band, they would hollow a kind of coffin out of a large spruce tree, and suspend his remains therein on the forks formed by the branches of two contiguous trees. Some instances are also recounted in which the remains of such persons were closed up in a standing position in the hollow trunk of a large tree while in its natural state. The lid or door of these primitive coffins was usually formed of a split piece of wood, which, when strongly laced with long switches of red willow, held it to the trunk of the tree in its original shape."

#### PECULIAR ARTS OF THE TUNGUS AND THE DÉNÉS.

It has already appeared that the Tungus and the Dénés equally made use of porcupine quills and beads, or, in default of the latter, tubular shells, such as the dentalium, in the ornamentation of their dress. The snowshoe was common to both. This contrivance is, at least, as old as the Christian era, for Strabo found it in the Caucasus. "The heights are impassable in winter; in summer they are ascended by fastening on the feet shoes as wide as drums, made of raw hide, and furnished with spikes on account of the snow and ice." The toboggan, or sledge, was also a Tungus vehicle drawn by horses and reindeer, but more frequently by dogs, and not seldom by men or women. The Russians classified the Tungus in relation to it, as Horse, Reindeer, Dog, and Foot-going Tungus. This toboggan was called by the different tribes *natar*, *tolyoki*, *tolgoki*, *turki*, *sherche*, and *fara*. By a strange perversity, none of my vocabularies contain the Déné word for toboggan, and Father Morice, in his Notes on the Western Dénés, has nothing to say regarding it. Mackenzie, referring to the Chepewyans, as he calls them, remarks: "The sledges are formed of thin slips of board turned up also in front, and are highly polished with crooked