

Haidahs may be the descendants of Japanese shipwrecked sailors and women of the so-called Tlinkeet race inhabiting Alaska"*, which statement it is hard to reconcile with his previous assertion that "there does not appear to be any affinity between [the Haidah language] and the dialects of the other tribes". Surely it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the descendants of such unions not to have retained at least the main outlines, some of the principal features of their female ancestors' idiom, especially as language is so apt to yield to maternal, rather than to paternal, influences. No wonder then if some philologists find important similarities between the Haida and the Tlinget languages.

Provincial ethnography has progressed considerably since the time when Drs. Tolmie and Dawson published (1883) their map shewing the distribution of the Indian tribes of British Columbia. The joint authors counted then no less than eleven distinct aboriginal stocks, several of which are now acknowledged by everybody to be co-affin. They erred by excess; Mr. MacKay sins the opposite way. He can see in our native population but four different groups: the Haida, the Déné, the Salish and the Kwakwiutl. Does he forget the Kutona'qa or Kootenay, or does he include them in one of the four races he enumerates? In the latter hypothesis, I would be curious to know where he looks to for their congeners. Again, we have seen that the Tsimpsians constitute by themselves a group apart.

Ethnologists are to-day pretty well agreed, pending more extended investigations, to divide the natives of the Province into six well defined unrelated groups. These are, from north to south: the Déné, the Tsimpsian, the Haida, the Kwakiut'l, the Salish and the Kootenay.

The languages of these main stocks are subdivided as follows:— The Déné has five distinct dialects within British Columbia, the Tsimpsian three, the Haida two, the Kwakiut'l five and the Salish seven. The Kootenays are conspicuous for their unity of speech. In fact, though constituting a really se-

* Ibid.