

"looks and figure." Not an unfavorable indication, perhaps, of the possibility of their future civilisation. I have long felt what a pity it is there are no Missionaries sent here to save those beautiful creatures from the awful fate that awaits them; it is but a few hundred miles from the capital, and yet there is no sympathy shown—no one sent amongst them to instruct them in the duties of religion, and the result is immorality of the most loathsome kind—such that were I to state only facts which I have been personally cognisant of, not once, but scores of times, I could not but be accused of falsehood.

A white man can purchase a wife for the value of six whole blankets, on the strange conditions that if he does not like her after a *month's trial* he can return her, and *demand back his blankets*; and if he declines to take the blankets, her family will keep them, and call him a very good man.

When an Indian takes a girl to wife, he keeps her till the age of twenty to twenty-five, and then returns her to the chief, who provides for her during the rest of her lifetime, and she undergoes the horrid mutilation of getting a canoe on her lip, as a sign of retirement from wedded life. A "canoe on the lip" means two pieces of ivory or bone, each the size of a halfpenny-piece; one is put on the top of the under lip, and the other underneath, and these are riveted together. Sometimes it will be one solid piece, causing the under lip to project out for a distance of at least an inch and a half from the under jaw. To this is sometimes added a large ring through the nose. I have seen them two and a half inches in diameter. Then they have three or four large holes in each ear, each large enough to allow the little finger to be inserted up to the second joint, in which she has either rings or strips of coloured rags. Many of them have rings round their wrists and legs immediately above the ankle. Sometimes these latter are put on when they are young; and as they grow up the rings will be so tight as to be invisible, owing to the flesh hanging over; nor do they seem to suffer any pain from it, though all walk very lame from this cause alone. Their breasts and arms are tattooed with figures representing chiefs and fish.

Many of the native women go down to Victoria during the winter and return in the spring loaded with blankets, beads, tobacco, fire-water, &c. These they distribute amongst their tribe in the following manner:—Perching themselves on a rock or stump, they will tear the blankets in strips, about eight inches in width, and throw them as far as they can in the crowd, to make a general scramble, and they who get the most gain the highest honours. Sometimes a woman will