

No more attractive form and ornamentation of basketry are to be seen than those produced by the Indians of this Thlinket stock extending from Mount Saint Elias to Queen Charlotte Archipelago, including Sitka.

#### HAIDA INDIANS.

These Indians live on Queen Charlotte Archipelago and adjacent islands. Their basket work differs in form from that of the Chilkahs, or Thlinkets, owing probably to the demands of trade; but the twined method is followed (Fig. 12) and the ornamentation is produced in a similar manner. The quality of the ware, however, is a little degenerated and more gaudy (Fig. 15). The Haidas are very skillful in imitating all sorts of chinaware in basketry, such as teapots, sugar bowls, toilet articles, table mats, bottles, and hats. They also introduce curved lines and spirals with good effect. The basketry hats of spruce roots, the most striking of their original designs, are made by the twining process (Fig. 14). The crown is twined weaving of the most regular workmanship and the fabric is perfectly water-tight when thoroughly wet (Fig. 15). An element of ornamentation is introduced into the brims by which a series of diamond patterns cover the whole surface (Fig. 16). This decoration is produced thus: Beginning at a certain point the weaver includes two warp strands in a half twist, instead of one; then makes two regular twists around single-warp strands. The next time she comes around she repeats the process, but her double stitch is one in advance of or behind its predecessor. A twilled effect of any shape may be thus produced, and rhombs, triangulated fillets, and chevrons made to appear on either surface.

The "fastening off" of the work is done either by bending down the free ends of the warp and shoving them out of sight under the stitches of the twisted web, or a braid of four strands forms the last row (Fig. 16), set on so that the whole braid shows outside and only one row of strands shows inside. The ends of the warp splints are then cropped close to the braid. This appearance of the entire four-stranded braid on the external surface is produced by passing each of the four strands alternately behind one of the warp sticks as the braiding is being done (Fig. 16). (Compare this with what was previously said about the basket from the Malabar coast, page 292.)

Special attention should be paid to the painted ornamentation on these hats (Figs. 14 and 15) showing head, wings, feet, and tail of the duck, laid on in black and red in the conventional manner of ornamentation in vogue among the Haidas and used in the reproduction of their various totems on all of their houses, wood and slate carvings, and the ornamentation of their implements.\*

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\*A very interesting instance of survival is to be seen in the rag carpets of these Indians. The missionaries have taught the women to save up their rags and to cover their floors with pretty mats. They are allowed to weave them in their own way, however, and the result is a mat constructed on the ancient twined model, precisely as the weaving is done on the mats and hats.