

The whole length of the group from North Point to Cape St. James, its southern extremity, is about one hundred and sixty miles. The islands of the group are separated by three channels. Parry Passage, at the north, separates North Island from Graham's, Skidegate Channel separates Graham's and Moresby's Islands, and Stewart Channel separates Moresby's and Prevost Islands.

These Islands are inhabited by a tribe of Indians called Haida or Hydah, who in manners and customs seem somewhat different from the neighboring tribes of the mainland, and those of Vancouver's Island. The name is spelled Hyder, Haida, or Haidah. I have adopted the latter style as it is more expressive of the true pronunciation of the natives.

In general appearance the Haidahs resemble the natives of the northeastern coast of Asia, who have a marked resemblance to the Tartar hordes and who seem to have extended along the Siberian coast, the Aleutian Islands, and down the American shores as far south as Queen Charlotte's Islands, where this peculiar type of the Indian race ceases, and is succeeded immediately by the Selish or flat-head branch of the North American Indians, who have been classed by Morgan as the Ganowanian family or Bow and Arrow people. I apply the term *Selish* in this paper to the tribes of Washington Territory and British Columbia south of the 51° parallel of north latitude.

The distinctive features of these two classes of Indians are apparent to the most casual observer. The Haidah, Chimsean, and other tribes north of Vancouver's Island, who are termed by the residents of Puget Sound "Northern Indians," are, as a general rule, of larger stature, better proportion, and lighter complexion than the Selish.

Although there are numerous instances of well-developed individuals among the Vancouver Island tribes, and of small-sized individuals among the Northern, yet the general appearance of the Northern Indians, both men and women, is much larger and finer. This difference is particularly marked in the females. Those of the Haidah and other northern tribes are tall and athletic, while the Selish women are shorter and more given to corpulency.

The Haidah Indians, living on an island separated from the mainland by a wide and stormy strait, are necessarily obliged to resort to canoes as a means of travel, and are exceedingly expert in their construction and management.

Some of their canoes are very large and capable of carrying one hundred persons with all their equipments for a long voyage. But those generally used will carry from twenty to thirty persons; and in these conveyances they make voyages of several hundred miles to Victoria on Vancouver's Island, and from thence to the various towns on Puget Sound.

These canoes are made from single logs of cedar, which attains an immense size on Queen Charlotte's Islands. Although not so graceful in model as the canoes of the west coast of Vancouver's Island and Washington Territory, which are commonly called Chenook canoes, yet they are most excellent sea boats, and capable of being navigated with perfect safety through the storms and turbulent waters of the northwest coast.