

devised for displaying merit, acquiring influence, and laying up provisions for the future. Thrift is evinced by the collection of the property which is distributed at this gift-feast, the liberality is shown in its distribution, and forethought is displayed in selecting as the special objects of this liberality those who are most likely to be able to return it. Every recipient by an understood rule is bound to return the value of his gift, at some future day, twofold, his relatives being expected to aid him. Thus a chief who emptied all his chests of their accumulated stores could comfortably reflect that he had not only increased his reputation but had at the same time invested all his means at high interest, whilst he had also made himself one of the most esteemed members of the community. Mr. Hale in treating of what he styles the "political and commercial system of these coast tribes" says it becomes a subject of interest to enquire into the probabilities of the future in respect to "their adaptability for accepting the industrial methods of modern Europe. Various writers are quoted to shew the "astonishing advances which have been made by these natives in all the ways of civilization," and reports are alluded to which shew that they held themselves to be completely on a level with the white settlers, that they felt an unwillingness to be confined to a reserve, and to be placed under an Indian Agent. They regard themselves as the rightful owners of the land, on which their people had dwelt from time immemorial. Mr. Hale then goes on to say that no other field of ethnological research is to be found in North America which equals British Columbia in interest and value. It may be questioned whether anywhere on the globe there can be found within so limited a compass so great a variety of languages, of physical types, of physical characteristics, of social systems, of mythologies, and indeed of all the subjects of study embraced under the general head of anthropology. The facts given in his report shew also how rapidly the