

upper edges standing $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 feet above the ground. Then the earth forming the bank is stamped against them, and thus a platform is made running along the front of the house. Later on this is continued all around the house. The frame-work of the front is the next to be erected, the poles (*C*) standing in the earth forming the platform. The upper edges of the front boards which were implanted into the ground are grooved, and in this groove the boards forming the front wall stand. They are tied or nailed to the cross-bar (*E*) and to the foremost rafter, which is connected with the frame-work of the front. The next thing to be done is to make the rear wall and the sides. The former exactly corresponds to the front, the door only being wanting. The boards forming the side walls are implanted into the ground, standing vertically, their upper ends being tied to the beam forming the top of the frame-work. The platform running along the inner sides of the walls is finished by stamping the earth against the side walls. The roof consists of a peculiar kind of boards, which run from the gable to the sides of the house and rest on the beams (*F*). They lap on their edges like Chinese tiles. This arrangement has the effect that the rain runs from the roof without penetrating into the house. The house front is generally finished by cutting the boards off along the roof and by finishing them off with a molding. Three blocks are placed in front of the door, forming steps (*T*) that lead to the platform. Three steps of the same kind lead from the platform to the floor of the house. The board forming the inner side of the platform slopes slightly inward. The house has no smoke escape, but several of the boards forming the roof can be pushed aside. During the night these openings are closed, but in the morning one board over every fire-place is pushed aside by means of a long pole. As it is necessary to look after the roof from time to time, a stationary ladder is leaned against the side of the house. It consists of one-half of the trunk of a tree or of a heavy board, into the upper side of which steps are cut.

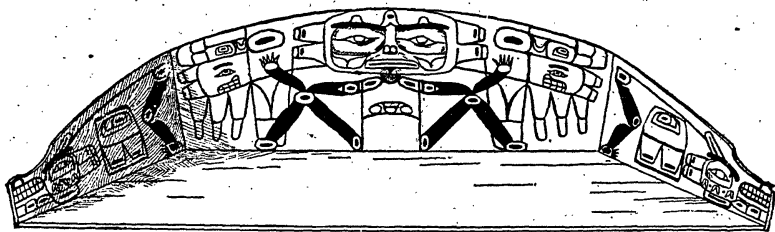


FIG. 5. Carved settee in a house at Qumta'spë (Hope Island).

The house is inhabited by four families, who occupy the four corners, and each of whom has a fire-place of its own. The corners belonging to each family are divided off from the main room by a rough frame-work of poles, the top of which is used for drying fish or other sorts of food. In the villages at the northern end of Vancouver Island a peculiar kind of frame is used for this purpose, while farther south poles are