

of small beads suspended at a distance from the ends, which hang free, leaving the middle part to fall loosely across the breast. Not unfrequently the ends are long enough to be each fastened back in another loop to the hairs behind the ears.

A voyager, known to the writer, states that at a festival he witnessed, there was on the head of every dancer a band supporting one, two or three large eagle's feathers, which, together with a streak of black lead, either in a diagonal line across or down one side of the face, gave them a more savage appearance than they usually exhibit. Many of these headbands were made of the skin of the head and neck of some animal or bird, of which the nose or beak was retained to project from the middle of the forehead.

The ordinary occupations of the women are sewing, the preparation of skins for making and mending, cooking, and the general care of the supplies of provisions. The woman's property, consisting of her beads and other ornaments, her needle-case, knife, etc., are considered her own (even after her marriage), and if a separation takes place, the clothes and presents (made to her by her husband), are returned, and she merely takes away with her whatever she has brought.

An intelligent white man is thought much of among them. The carpenter of a ship is valuable in their eyes, as are all mechanics or others who can show skill, and they gladly offer up their prettiest daughters, with land, implements, etc., to such a man if he will become her husband and remain with them.

Many who have not beheld strangers before, think our ladies too pale, when they see them in portraits, and often ask singular questions as to whether their dress does not make them cold and miserable. Indeed, several had a fancy that white women had beards, the same as men, to *help warm them*.

A widow is supported by next of kin to her late husband. If he does not himself marry her, he may select another to do so. They are strict and peculiar in this, deeming it a duty to provide the bereaved woman with another partner as

soon as possible. She is still entitled to one, and, having had a husband, it is not just to her to let her remain single afterwards. To be barren or unmarried is a disgrace, and the woman is generally looked upon as something to be despised, or if unavoidable with her, to be pitied for the cause.

Thus adoption, sometimes slyly, is common with them. A child they must have somehow, in proof of being what they consider they ought to be, fruitful among mankind. But it is rare for one woman ever to have as many as seven children, and for five to live to maturity is still more rare. If a child is not well formed at birth, they will often kill it. During pregnancy the wife is carefully attended to, and every effort is made, in their superstitious way, to have a good season of the year for the period of trouble to her. With them, however, nature gives more relief than in civilized life. Some of their customs, at these times, are almost identical with the ceremonies of the Levitical Law.

Children keep to the breast till five years old, *standing* up to receive the nourishment. Indeed, one of four years old was seen asking for a chew of tobacco, and then going to his *mammy* for the baby's food.

No feelings of delicacy arise as to plurality of wives. Occasional jealousies take place, but as in the civilized world a wife is proud of the *moneyed* wealth of her husband, so, there, is she of the *number* of *wives* he can maintain. To her it is a proof that she has the right sort of man. Polygamy with them is a sign of *wealth*. Sometimes there will be three wives and one old one—the latter old enough to be mother of the young ones. But generally a man who can afford it has his housewife, hunting-wife and love-wife. The fact is, they look at the laws of nature in their icy region more than what we should call the laws of morality or society. The majority of them think it better to marry a man double their age than one of their own period of life. Thus a man of forty, may have his housewife of the same age—she being probably a widow previously, whom as next of kin he was bound to protect, and two or three younger wives from sixteen to twenty-five.