

sometimes speak of the Spaniards. They say that the foreigners (who must have been Meares' men or the Spanish) had begun to cultivate the ground and to erect a stockade and fort, when one day a ship came with papers for the head-man, who was observed to cry, and all the white men became sad. The next day they began moving their goods to the vessel.

The hair of the natives is never shaven from the head. It is black or dark brown, without gloss, coarse and lank, but not scanty, worn long, and either tied in a bunch or knot at the crown without an attempt at ornament, or allowed to hang loosely from under a handkerchief or wreath of grass, or of feathered birdskin, encircling the head. A favourite place of concealment for a knife carried as a weapon is among the hair behind the ear. The practice of tying the hair behind the head in the Chinese fashion is said to be peculiar to the natives on the outside coast of the Island. Slaves wear their hair short. Now and then, but rarely, a light-haired native is seen. There is one woman in the Opechisaht tribe at Alberni who had curly, or rather wavy, brown hair. Few grey-haired men can be noticed in any tribe. I once saw a middle-aged native with red hair, and he seemed a pure Indian, but it is difficult to say whether he was so or not. The women are careful of their hair, and have little boxes in which they keep combs and looking-glasses. There is a small white-flowered plant, of about three feet in height, the bruised roots of which are put on their hair by the Indians to make it grow. One frequently sees the women combing their hair and afterwards disposing it on each side into plaits, which taper to a point, and are there