



The Potlatch.

AS A

Thug.

MANY of our readers will remember the "scare" of an Indian uprising in 1885, originating in a murder committed by "Jim" of Gitwintgol, who was subsequently shot by one of the constables sent to arrest him, and which eventually necessitated the despatch of a military force to the Skeena district.

This murder arose entirely out of the Potlatch—rival claimants for a chief's position. "Jim's" wife had a half-breed son whom she induced to "jump" the claim of one Nizqu to a certain chieftainship according to Potlatch law, whereupon Nizqu declared his rival should not long enjoy his position.

Almost immediately after this the young fellow succumbed to an attack of measles, and Nizqu was "named" by the distracted mother as the cause (by witchcraft) of his death. So the mother loaded "Jim's" gun, handed it to him, and poor Nizqu was shot.

I give below a list of 40 such murders and attempted murders all arising out of the Potlatch, in the space of about 35 years and confined to a population of about 2,000.

1. Ukeglegu (girl), shot at ...
2. Kshimkshim ...
3. Gitkon (chief), shot by Andä because he wanted to put a relative into a certain seat, before a potlatch at Gittkaden
4. Gamdagest (chief),
5. Kaligikak (boy),
6. Kalgikak (boy),
7. Ekatugwage (chief),
8. Nishga'lot (chief),
9. Goudék (chief),
10. Gumnwenguk (man),
11. Geimiké (man),
12. Andä (chief), shot by 'Lau.
13. Sispagod (chief), shot by 'Léduk, for having a totem pole made too long. This was done at Sispagod's potlatch.
14. Giadagä (chief), stabbed by 'Léduk in a dispute about seat at potlatch.
15. N's Nionoutgu (winn) o
16. N's Anket (winn) o
17. 'Léduk (chief), shot by Giadagä; also affr 14. o
18. Gagia' (winn), r
19. Zaltgu (man), r
20. N's Giadagä (winn), r shot by the Lakgibu clan in connection with affr 14.
21. Sispagod (chief) shot by his nephew, Dagaswan, because, being in possession of two chieftainships, he did not give one to him.
22. Yet, (chief), stabbed by Shaitlakhadans at Gukmet's potlatch.
23. Naquaon (chief), shot by Saitlakhadans at Alimlakha potlatch, (not so many years ago, for Alimlakha is still a young man.)
24. Laidiedaus (man), shot by Naquaon's son at the same potlatch.
25. 'Gald (man), stabbed by Lulak at a potlatch made by Shaitlakhadans of Gitwingak. 2 (died within a year)
26. Nizqu (chief), shot by Gungaknuk muk (Jim) at Widak potlatch.
27. Nishagawit (chief), shot by Döbesqu at a potlatch at Gungakha.
28. Döbesqu (chief), shot by Maulagan at the same potlatch.

29. Gungaknuk (man), shot by one of the constables sent to arrest. (see 20)
30. Laidiedaus (man), stabbed by Gwiddidau at Gitwingak. o
31. N's Shaitwan (winn), shot by Shaitwan at Ligiap's potlatch at Gungakha. r
32. Shaitwan (chief), shot by Kshigik at the same potlatch—31. r
33. Zeimuk (chief) clubbed with a gun by Aziksh at Hägesqu's potlatch. o
34. Nizit (man), stabbed by Dumnouuk. r (Tamanawas, this and next 2 cases)
35. Dögesqu (youth), thorax cleft open with a hatchet by Negu. r
36. Saganik (man), shot by Dumnouuk in the affray. o
37. Dumnouuk (chief), shot by Negu (?) in same affray. o
38. Lulak (chief), skull cleft with a hatchet by Widak-hayazqu, r (disputed about seat at Shoinuuk's potlatch)
39. Laklakshim (chief), shot by Gishwatqu at Widak-hayazqu's potlatch. o
40. Gaidm (chief), shot by the Hagwilgat at Gialugiak's potlatch. o

Recovered: some now living.
 Died on the spot.
 (a) The foregoing list is by no means exhaustive; there are many cases the details of which I have not been able to get.
 (b) These crimes are confined to a population of about 2,000.
 (c) Witnesses can be produced to give evidence in any one, or all, of the above cases.

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NOTE. The Nos. are identical with the form of receipt sent to each contributor.

I desire to state that there are still remaining on hand a few back numbers of the *Interchange*, both of the edition issued Sept. 1899, containing an address by Bishop Ridley, and also of that issued last Easter, setting forth the particulars of the Aiyansh Settlement Scheme. I shall be happy therefore to mail copies to any friend making application for the same.

—ED.