

*ca'ajutaha'* of the Chinooks, ceases with the limits of this tribe, who may thus in two points at least, be said to assimilate to the southern races; though their language and general customs are different.

The chief distinctive peculiarity of the Hailtza is the practice of biting the arm, following a custom of superstitious origin, and certainly most barbarous effect. All the adult males (slaves of course excepted) have their arms scarred with the horrid mutilations thus voluntarily endured: the older the individual, the more numerous the cicatrices which he bears. While resident at Milbank Sound in 1833, I did not succeed in learning all the particulars of the custom; but I have since received some details which I shall briefly epitomize. A chief assuming one of those moody fits common among divers of the North American nations, and especially those of the North west coast, retires secretly to the mountains; and remains there, fasting and in seclusion, for a period of several days. During this period, every care is taken not to approach the suspected neighborhood of his retreat: in the event of intrusion, even death is the reported penalty, if the unfortunate intruder is a female or a slave. After the term of seclusion is passed, suddenly and without previous warning, the phrenzied enthusiast, howling demoniacally, rushes into the village. The women secrete their children, the slaves withdraw in terror, and the dogs are hastily called aside by their anxious mistresses; for dog, or slave regarded little better than dog, if encountered during this assumed phrenzy, falls speedily a sacrifice; nor do children, if not destroyed, escape scathless. It is then that the free adults submit to the revolting mutilation; the horrors of which can scarcely be exaggerated. Feasting and presents succeed, with all the mysteries of the Shaagar\*.

Thus far advanced in these notes, the call of important business at a distance warns me to conclude more abruptly than I had intended. While abandoning the at-

\*Shaagar, a term of Haidah origin, used widely on the N. W. coast, "Medicine," or the African "Fetisa," might be correlative.

tempt, however, to enter into further details regarding special points, I shall hazard a few remarks as to the races of which I have treated.

As before mentioned, I believe the Chipewyan to have emigrated from the westward. I believe them to be of Asiatic origin, and to have entered America by the way of Behring's Straits; afterwards to have been intercepted from the coast by the extension southward of the Esquimaux, while themselves gradually extending downwards within the line of the Coast Range of Mountains. There are several points circumstantially corroborative of this opinion which it is needless to enter upon, yet I cannot but mention that two remote tribes are apparently of this connexion, and have been intercepted by the gradual extension and interlocking of other tribes during the progress of the emigration southward which I have supposed. These are the SARSEES and the KLATSKANAI. The former, inhabiting the plains of upper Saskatchewan, and now quite isolated, are commonly received as descendants of the Chipewyans, a dialect of whose language they are known to speak. The affinity which I have claimed for the Klatskanai, (who inhabit south of the Columbia, east of the Killelooks of the Coast,) rests upon the identity of several words in daily use, too plainly marked to arise from accidental coincidence; nor can it be doubted that a more extended comparison of words would tend to increase the number of instances of identity.

Another example of a small tribe thus probably isolated from its parent race, are the KOOTANAI, who inhabit the angle between the Saeliss lands and the eastern heads of the Columbia. Unaware of the origin of this tribe, who, attacked year after year as they visit the buffalo grounds by their mortal foes the Blackfeet, maintain still a noble independence, I mention them as illustrating the isolation of small septs just treated of. They are probably of southern origin, as their language bears no affinity to that of any of the tribes to which I have alluded. Decimated periodically by