

did the women make these baskets that they would hold liquids without trouble. In preparing any food two kettles were customarily used—one containing water for washing off any dirt that might adhere to the heated stones, and the other for holding the food. In boiling salmon for eating the fish were tied up in birch bark to prevent breaking and falling to pieces.

The house furniture and utensils were few and simple. Tables and chairs, or such like conveniences, were quite unknown. Wooden dishes, hollowed out from the solid block by means of stone, bone, or beaver-teeth chisels, and wooden or horn spoons were sometimes used by the wealthier class; but usually the food was served up and eaten off reed mats, which served also as seats, carpets, and beds. These latter were commonly laid directly on the ground, which was strewn with the bushy ends of fir branches. The beds of the common people were simply a few reed mats, but in the houses of the chiefs and headmen these were supplemented with skins and blankets woven from the hair of the mountain sheep or goat. The people always disrobed when going to bed, and as there were no division or apartments in the 'keekwilee-houses,' but for the dusk there could not have been much privacy about the matter. Yet it is clear from their folk-songs that the maidens of the upper ranks, at least, were modest and diffident, and when out bathing always chose the most secluded spots, and were as embarrassed and shamed at being seen naked as any white maiden might be. I have been struck again and again in my work among the Indians with this keen sense of modesty in the girls of the interior, particularly those who have come under the influence of the Sisters.

The houses of the N'tlaka'pamuq resembled those of the other interior tribes. For the greater part of the year they lived in semi-subterranean dwellings known in the trade jargon as 'keekwilee-houses.' These houses, of which there is no perfect specimen left in the province, were of varying dimensions. Those of Lytton were from 30 to 50 feet in diameter. Nothing of them now remains but the saucer-like depressions which mark the spots where they formerly stood. As a description of these dwellings has been given both by Dr. Boas in his Reports, and by Dr. G. M. Dawson in his 'Notes,' &c., it will be unnecessary for me to give another here. I will only say that the dimensions of these dwellings as given by the above writers fall considerably below the dimensions of those commonly found among the central and lower divisions of the N'tlaka'pamuq. Of the upper I cannot speak from personal knowledge. Dr. G. M. Dawson speaks of those he saw as having a diameter of from 10 to 30 feet; and Dr. Boas describes his as having a diameter of from 12 to 15 feet.¹ The shortest diameter to be found on the old camp site at Lytton was 34 feet, and they rise from this to 54 feet; and the old men of the neighbourhood, whom I questioned on this matter, and most of whose lives had been spent in them, informed me that 60 and even 70 feet were not uncommon diameters. There is one now, which I measured in company with Mr Harlan Smith, of the New York Museum of Natural History, on the left bank of Stain Creek, not far

¹ The dimensions given by me were not from actual measurement, and I am ready to accept Mr. Hill-Tout's figures. Dr. Boas' illustration of the construction of these houses, in one of the Reports of the B. A. A. S. Committee on the N. W. tribes, is incorrect, as afterwards stated by him. The actual method of construction is shown in a diagram in my paper, here several times referred to by Mr. Hill-Tout.—G. M. D.