

curious and elaborate (Fig. 9). The basket-maker had a number of little loops of bark and quill of different color prepared, and every time a stitch was about to be taken the lower end of one of these loops was caught over the splint thread and held down. The next stitch fastened the two ends of the loops home (that is, each stitch caught the lower part of a new loop and fastened down both ends of the preceding one after it had been doubled back), giving a series of imbrications (Fig. 10). On this specimen are between 3,000 and 4,000 separate loops sewed. This is one of the most striking examples of savage patience and skill, and must have occupied in its construction many hours of a renowned artist.

Mr. Jones tells us, in the Smithsonian Report (1856, p. 323), that the Hong Kutchin Indians, who live on the headwaters of the Yukon River, make basket-kettles of tamarack roots woven very neatly and ornamented with hair and dyed porcupine quills. The water is boiled by means of hot stones thrown in. For dyeing the roots and quills they use berries and a kind of grass growing in the swamps.

In looking at these coiled baskets, standing geographically so far removed from the Apache and Navajo country, one is reminded that the migration which separated these branches of a great stock may have been northward and not southward, and that the Tinné may have carried with them the art of making coiled baskets learned in a region where its beauty culminates.

CHILKAHT INDIANS.

The basket work of these Indians is superb. Every one who sees it is struck with its perfection of workmanship, shape, and ornamentation. All the specimens of the National Museum collection are of the band-box shape; but they can be doubled up flat like a grocer's bag (Fig. 11). The material is the young and tough root of the spruce, split, and used either in the native color or dyed brown or black. The structure belongs to the twined or plaited type before mentioned, and there is such uniformity and delicacy in the warp and woof that a water-tight vessel is produced with very thin walls. In size the wallets vary from a diminutive trinket basket to a capacity of more than a bushel. All sorts of lovely designs in bands, crosses, rhombs, chevrons, triangles, and grecques are produced thus: First, the bottom is woven plain in the color of the material. Then in the building up of the basket bands of plain color, red and black, are woven into the structure, having the same color on both sides. Afterwards little squares or other plain figures are sewed on in aresene, that is, only half way through, giving the most varied effect on the outside, while the inside shows only the plain colors and the red and black bands. The wild wheat straws are used in this second operation, whipped over and over along the outer threads of the underlying woof, or two straws are twined around in the manner explained above (page 293, bottom).