

CHAPTER III.

LOCALITIES.

Localities of the Aht Nation—Topographical Features of the District—
The large Sounds: the outside Coast: the Mountain Lakes: the Pine-
Forests: the Climate—Native Population on the West Coast of
Vancouver Island—Several Characteristics of Tribes—Tribal Names
originally bestowed by Quawteaht—Subdivision of Tribes.

*Fain would I here have made abode,
But I was quickened by my hour.*—HERBERT.

I WILL now give the reader a short description of the wild country in which we were the first settlers. To many this subject may not be very interesting, but perhaps in a few years it may become desirable to possess a record of the state of this portion of the island in its now condition. Dr. Arnold said he always looked for descriptions of places in books of travel, though he seldom found one that gave him any clear notion of a place. I hope to have avoided this condemnation.

The localities inhabited by the Aht tribes are, chiefly, the three large Sounds on the west coast of Vancouver Island, called Nitinaht (or Barclay), Klah-oh-quaht, and Nootkah, the two former of which are native names borne by tribes at these places. In Nitinaht (or Barclay) Sound, is now