

## THE HAIDAH INDIANS OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLANDS.

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QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S ISLANDS are a group in the Pacific Ocean, lying off the northwest coast of North America about seventy-five miles northwest of Vancouver's Island, between latitude  $51^{\circ} 30'$  and  $54^{\circ} 20'$  north, and at a distance from the mainland varying from one hundred miles at their southern extremity to about sixty miles at the northern portion of the group.

They were first discovered by Captain Cook, R. N., in the year 1776, and it is said that he landed on the most northerly portion near a spot now known as Cook's Inlet. Captain Juan Perez, a Spanish navigator, had sighted this land two years previously, but it was not taken formal possession of by either the English or Spanish until 1787, when Captain Dixon took possession in the name of King George the Third, and named the group after the consort of the King, "Queen Charlotte's Islands."

These Islands form together a healthy picturesque territory, rich in natural resources, and well adapted to colonization: Nevertheless, for the space of nearly a century no attempt has been made by the English to colonize them. There they lie waste and fallow, yet marvellously productive, and awaiting nothing but capital, enterprise, and skill to return manifold profit to those who will develop their resources.

The names of this group are North, Graham's, Moresby's, and Prevost.

Graham's and Moresby's Islands are the largest, and constitute at least 95 per cent. of the whole area of the group.

North and Prevost Islands, one at the extreme northwest, and the other at the extreme southeast of the group, are quite small, being only a few miles in area.

There are a great number of small islands and islets around the main group, particularly on the eastern side. Some of these islets are of considerable extent, but are of minor importance when compared with the main group.

The general direction of Queen Charlotte's Islands is northwest and southeast, following the general outline of the coast in that region of the continent.

The widest portion is at the northern end of Graham's Island, a little north of the  $54^{\circ}$  parallel, and measures, from Cape Fife on the east, to Cape Knox on the west, about sixty nautical miles.

From the  $54^{\circ}$  parallel the group narrows towards its southern extremity till it is reduced, at Prevost Island, to about one mile.