

surprise and massacre of helpless parties, even including old people and women, than in actual prolonged conflict.

Territory.

The original territory of the Haidas, as far as tradition carries us back, is the well-defined group of islands called by Captain Dixon in 1787 the Queen Charlotte Islands, but which the people themselves call *Hai-da-kwē-a*.^{*} These islands lie between the latitudes of 51° 55' and 54° 15', with an extreme length of about 190 miles. They are separated by waters of considerable width from the mainland to the east and from the southern extremity of the territory of Alaska to the north. At the present day, however, people of the Haida stock, and closely related in every way to the tribes of the northern end of the Queen Charlotte Islands, occupy also a portion of the coast of the southern islands of Alaska, being the south end of the Prince of Wales Archipelago, from Clarence Strait westward, together with Forrester's Island.

Islands not
directly peo-
pled from main-
land.

It has been supposed that from the large islands adjacent to the mainland the Queen Charlotte Islands have been peopled, but this is not the case, for the traditionary account is still found among the natives of internecine wars as a result of which a portion of the Haidas of the northern part of the Queen Charlotte Islands were driven to seek new homes on the Prince of Wales group. Their story is borne out by other circumstances, and the date of the migration cannot be more than 150 years ago. These Haidas living beyond the Queen Charlotte group are generally known collectively as *Kai-ga-ni*, which name is also among the Indians applied to the country they inhabit.

Frequently, among tribes pretty closely related in language, the process of differentiation has gone so far that neighbouring peoples disclaim any community of race, though on comparing their vocabularies their national identity becomes apparent. This is not the case, however, among the Haidas, who speak of all the people of their nationality as Haida, adding when necessary the name of the region inhabited by the tribe. A comparison of the Haida language with those of the other tribes of the coast shows very few points of resemblance.

Physical peculiarities and dress.

Build and ap-
pearance of the
Haidas.

Physically, the various tribes of the north-west coast differ to some extent, so that a practised eye may distinguish between them, but the differences are slight as compared with those obtaining between the coast tribes generally, and those of the interior of British Columbia. The Haidas are, however, markedly fairer skinned than most of the

^{*} On the orthography of Indian words see note in connection with the Haida vocabulary.