

was saying. Almost immediately my friend began to harangue them, and continued for about ten minutes in great earnestness. He then told me he had been telling them about me and my business, which of course I knew, for their searching looks, significant nods and happy faces told me more than that. On leaving them every countenance greeted me with a grateful smile, and every voice reiterated good wishes."

CHAPTER II.

STATE OF THE INDIANS WHEN MISSIONARY WORK WAS COMMENCED AMONGST THEM.

Savage Condition of the Indians—Cannibal Scene—The Medicine Parties—Murder of an Indian—Previous Roman Catholic Missions—Result of these Efforts.

INTERESTING as it was to Mr. Duncan to find the people so willing to receive him, yet increasing intercourse with them served to show how terrible was the state of degradation in which they were living. The following extract from one of his early letters gives sad evidence of this:—

"The other day we were called upon to witness a terrible scene. An old chief, in cool blood, ordered a slave to be dragged to the beach, murdered, and thrown into the water. His orders were quickly obeyed. The victim was a poor woman. Two or three reasons are assigned for this foul act: one is, that it is to take away the disgrace attached to his daughter, who has been suffering some time from a ball wound in the arm. Another report is, that he does not expect his daughter to recover, so he has killed this slave in order that she may prepare for the coming of his daughter into the unseen world. I think the former reason is the most probable. I did not see the murder, but, immediately after, I saw crowds of people running out of those houses near to where the corpse was thrown, and forming themselves into groups at a good distance away. This I learnt