

In revising Mr. Mackenzie's notes for publication, his original orthography of nearly all the native names has been retained unchanged, but in a few places some remarks which appear to be unnecessary, because covered by what is already published, have been omitted.

GEORGE M. DAWSON.

Dance Staff (Haida Tusk).—A ceremonial staff of this kind was formerly used at feasts, dances and distributions of property. The principal man concerned in the ceremony, by forcibly tapping the floor with such a staff or baton, called the attention of the audience to the business immediately in hand. At feasts where property or blankets were given, or paid away, a significant tap of this staff intimated that the transaction was closed, resembling much the tap of an auctioneer's hammer on a bargain being concluded. The carved devices of crane, whale, crow, owl, and bear, with which it has been ornamented, refer to tribal legends.

The proprietorship of such a staff of course shewed that the owner was an *Eitlahgeet* or chief, who had made the necessary feasts and distributions of property to entitle him to that dignity. The staff was always carefully preserved in a safe place in the owner's lodge. [No. 1339.] Several somewhat similar staffs are figured by Mr. Niblack (plate xvii.)

Woven Hats (Haida Haht-ul-sung-ah).—These are made of spruce roots, and were both plain and painted, the shape being that common along the coast of British Columbia and frequently illustrated. One of these hats [No. 1335] is of more than ordinary dimensions [diameter 23 inches], and is of the kind worn only on the occasion of a distribution of property, the wearer then having on also a "dance blanket," and holding in the hand a staff, of the kind just noted. Such costume was suitable for either male or female. The devices painted on these hats seem to have been a matter of fancy, and to have had no particular significance. The dog-fish, whale, crow or bear were often represented on them. [Nos. 1333 to 1335.]

Large woven and pieced Dance-Blanket (Haida Na-hung).—This is a specimen of the dance-blanket or covering almost universally used at feasts, dances and ceremonials by the native tribes of the coast. Such blankets were made only by the Chilkats of the Alaskan coast, and although often called Haida blankets, the term is erroneous, as the Haida never practised the art of weaving wool or hair. These blankets were, however, highly valued by the Haida, and any one aspiring to the position of chief was expected to possess one such elaborate covering. Now they are rare, having been eagerly sought after by collectors. The devices are similar to those on Haida carvings, indeed the ornamentation of the latter seems by all evidence to have been copied from the tribes of Northern Alaska. The material used in making these blankets is mountain goat's wool and cedar bark. [No. 1374.]

Dance Head-dress (Haida Tsilk).—Ornamental head-dresses of this kind are used in ceremonial dances by the tribes of the Northwest Coast. An excellent illustration in

¹ The numbers thus given throughout, are those under which the objects specially referred to are catalogued in the Museum of the Geological Survey. Some of them are figured in the accompanying plates.