

is rather indolent, but his ambition for wealth and its inherent mark of distinction makes him enterprising. They have considerable business judgment, and it is a rare occurrence that a white man gets the 'better of a bargain with an Indian of south-eastern Alaska. When first visited by the early voyagers, these Indians, like all others on the coast, were bold. arrant thieves : to-day, however, this accusation cannot be made against them. They have great respect for the aged ; between the sexes the rights of the women are regarded, and they live on terms of equality. They have considerable artistic taste in the use of colours, are advanced in the arts of carving in wood, slate and metal, and have fair abilities in drawing and designing. In the latter I found a marked characteristic, and that is, the absence, or scarcity at least, of curves in their designs, they being nearly all angular and rectangular.

The totem poles one finds in the villages throughout south-eastern Alaska are relics of the past. They are carved tree trunks, upwards of thirty feet high, with grotesque figures which, in a measure, represent a genealogical tree. A totem is simply an organization of consanguineal kindred into a recognized group or band. The organization is based on mother-right, (such as rank, wealth, property etc.) received from the mother. The most prominent totems met with are the wolf, raven, eagle, bear and whale.

The practice of mutilation is older than recorded history. Man never has been satisfied with either his structure or appearance, and has constantly endeavored to improve upon both. However, at present little mutilation is done. Occasionally one meets a woman with a pierced under lip, a projecting plug being inserted into the hole ; and also women with tattooed arms and hands. The most hideous practice still in vogue among the women is that of painting the face black, leaving a large circle around the eyes unpainted, thereby making the face most repulsive. The paint consists of fish-oil and charcoal, and acts as a preventive against mosquitoes. Another use is for improving the complexion, and for this purpose it is efficient. I recollect seeing a squaw going off with a blackened face for some weeks on a hunting tour with her husband ; after they returned, she washed herself and emerged like a butterfly from the chrysalis, clean, fair and bright.