

mostly wear beads, hanging down to the shoulder; and in the slit in the lip they have a bone or ivory instrument fitted, with holes in it, from which they hang beads as low as the chin. These holes in the lip disfigure them very much, some of them having it as large as their mouth.— But with all this fancied finery they are remarkably filthy in their persons; and, not frequently shifting their garments, they are generally very lousy; and in times of scarcity these vermin probably serve them as an article of food, for I have seen them pick and eat to the number of a dozen or more, and they are not very small. Their clothing consists wholly of the skins of animals and birds. I must do them the justice to say, that we in general found them very friendly; and they appear so remarkably tender and affectionate to their women and children, that you cannot please them more than in making them small presents; but carry your attention to their women no farther, for nothing gives them greater displeasure than taking liberties with them. Another very prevalent inclination is that of thieving; which is by no means peculiar to them, but is equally to be seen in all other Indians, not only from strangers, but from one another, I have frequently, in the course of my trading with them, seen them steal from one another, and, on being detected, they will give up the articles they have stolen with a laugh, and immediately appear as unconcerned as if nothing had happened—amiss. I am sure that with them thieving with dexterity is rather thought a grace than a disgrace; and the complete thief is a clever fellow, but the bungling pilferer is less admired. You may generally know the man who comes as a professed thief, for his face will be all daubed with paint; and whilst you may be viewing the curious figure he cuts with his painted face, you may be sure that his hands are not idle, if there is any thing near him worth stealing; and whenever you see the arm slip from out of the sleeve of the frock of skins which they always wear, you may be well assured that the person is intent on thieving; and they always conceal the articles they have stolen under their frock, until they have an opportunity of stowing them away in their canoes: but, notwithstanding our knowing the professed thief, and all our vigilance, they frequently stole little things from us, but of no consequence. During our intercourse with them they grew less addicted to thieving, in consequence of my sometimes appearing a little angry with them, and taking some pains to convince them of the impropriety of their behaviour. Upon the

whole, they appear a good kind of people; and I am convinced, in a little time, provided a settlement of sufficient strength were established, would be an industrious set of people, in hunting, and procuring the sea-otter, and other skins, for sale to the settlers.

The articles of food of the inhabitants are fish and animals of all kinds, of which they eat very heartily when they have it in their power. They eat the vegetables which the country affords, and the inner bark of the pine tree; which, in the spring of the year, must be of infinite service in recovering them from the scurvy, with which disease I am apt to think they are much afflicted during the winter, having seen many of them with swollen legs, and sores, which I am pretty certain proceeded from that disease. As the summer advanced we saw little of those appearances. They never practise the method of smoking their provisions; and, for want of salt, they have no other way of curing their winter stock of fish than drying it in the sun. Their fish they generally roast, by running some sticks through to spread it, and clapping it before a fire. Their animal food they generally dress in baskets or wooden vessels, by putting it on red-hot stones, until the victuals are dressed enough; and it is surprising how quick they dress their provisions in this way.

During the summer season they lead a strange wandering life; and the shelter they live under in bad weather, when from home, is either their canoes, or small sheds made of a few sticks covered with a little bark. Their winter habitations are also very ill-made and inconvenient. Those I have seen are not more than from four to six feet high, about ten feet long, and about eight feet broad, built with plank, and the crevices filled up with dry moss; and in those houses they generally flow very thick. The method they use in making plank is, to split the trees with wooden or stone wedges; and I have seen a plank twenty or twenty-five feet long, split from a tree by their method.

Their weapons for war are spears of sixteen or eighteen feet long, headed with iron; bows and arrows, and long knives; all of which they are amazingly dexterous in using. Their fishing implements are wooden hooks, with lines made of a small kind of rockweed, which grows to a considerable length, and will hold a good strain, if kept clear of hinks, and properly moistened. With these hooks and lines they catch halibut and cod, salmon, they catch in wiers, or spear them, and hering, I believe they catch with small nets.