

language affording no appropriate expression. Their language is also peculiar in containing no oaths, or any words expressive of gratitude or thanks.

Their habits are extremely filthy, their persons abounding with vermin, and one of their chief amusements consists in picking these disgusting insects from each others' heads and eating them. On my asking an Indian one day why he ate them, he replied that they bit him and he gratified his revenge by biting them in return. It may naturally be supposed that they are thus beset from want of combs or other means of displacing the intruders; but this is not the case, they pride themselves on carrying such companions about them, and giving their friends the opportunity of amusing themselves in hunting and eating them.

The costume of the men consists of a musk-rat skin robe, the size of one of our ordinary blankets, thrown over the shoulders, without any breech-cloth, moccasins or leggings. Painting the face is not much practised amongst them except on extraordinary occasions, such as the death of a relative, some solemn feast, or going on a war party. The female dress consists of a girdle of cedar bark round the waist, with a dense mass of strings of the same material hanging from it all around and reaching almost to the knees. This is their sole summer habiliment. They, however, in very severe weather add the musk-rat blanket. They also make another description of blanket from the skin of the wild goose, which is here taken in great abundance. The skin is stripped from the bird with the feathers on, and cut into strips, which they twist so as to have the feathers outwards. This makes a feathered cord, and is then netted together so as to form a blanket, the feathers filling up the meshes, and rendering it a light and very warm covering. In the summer these are entirely thrown aside, not being in any case worn from feelings of delicacy, and the men go quite naked, though the women always wear the cedar petticoat.

The country which the Chinooks inhabit being almost destitute of furs they have little to trade in with the whites. This, coupled with their laziness—probably induced by the ease with which they procure fish, which is their chief subsistence—prevents their obtaining ornaments of European manufacture, consequently anything of the kind is seldom seen amongst them. They, however, wear long strings of small shells found on the coast called *Ioquas*, and used by them also as money.

A great traffic is carried on amongst all the tribes through the medium of these shells, which are found only at Cape Flattery, at the