

Skidegat's town, on which were fourteen of these black and white circles. A chief, or a person of high standing, had to wear a sort of cloak, attached to a head-dress. On the front of the head-piece was carved one of the crests of the wearer. Set into its face were a number of abalone shells. Fixed into the top of this head-gear, standing upright, were a number of sealion bristles. These were put in to form a small circle, within which were placed a lot of eagle down-feathers. While dancing and jumping about and shaking their heads, this down would fly about, covering everything. Attached to this head-gear was a yard or two of calico. This had a large number of ermine skins sewed to it. This usually hung down the back of the wearer. The Hidery name for this is *chillka*, the Tsimshians call it *am halloid*, (good or nice halloid). With this I shall finish my description of their social ways for the present, and take the raven phratry.

The raven which is used is the one common to this coast, and is by some ornithologists classed as *corvus catotoff*. Yet he is more than a mere raven, or phratry, in their estimation, because he has always been considered as the embodiment of the creator and preserver of all.

Every nation on this coast has a name for him in their own language. The Sangus, Sauch, Cowitchians and others give the name *Spaul*; the Fort Ruperts, Billu Billus, call him *Cov-e-ah*; the Southern Hidery call him *Chov-e-ah*; the Northern Hidery and the Southern Alaskans call him *Yehl*; the Tsimshians call him *Cauck*. According to the Hidery, the god Ne-kilst-luss, in all of his works of creation and providence, assumed the shape of a raven. All of the above mentioned nations had a god to whom was ascribed the same functions; all of them when asked if they had a god, and what was his name, would always give the name as raven. All the others except the Hidery seem to have lost the old god name for the raven. This god, Ne-kilst-luss, under different names, represented good and evil. As the creator he is known as Ne-kilst-luss; as goodness he is known as Sun-i-a-tlai-duss, and as the evil principle he is known as Haidu-tan-ah. In the shape of a raven he existed from all eternity. Before this world came into being, as a raven he brooded over the intense darkness which prevailed, until after æons of ages, by the continual flapping of his wings, he beat the darkness down to solid ground. After this he gave the new found earth a principle of evolution. For a long time the only light in the world was a dim, hazy one given off by the earth. When the earth was in a condition to receive the stronger light from the sun, moon and stars, he set himself to get hold of them. They were in possession of a great chief named Settin-ki-juss, who lived far up on the Skeeun. He had them in three separate boxes, and kept them only for his own use.