

emptied by this terrible scourge, and many families entirely obliterated.

These Indians have a curious custom : when a family becomes entirely extinct they remove the roof and boarding at the sides of their houses (which are sometimes very large, as the whole family, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even the most distant relations live under the same roof) and leave only the skeleton or frame work of the house standing : in this they place the canoes of the departed covering them up with matting and leaves, in order that their owners may have the use of them when they require them in the spirit-land to which they have gone. We saw many houses treated thus, and scarcely one in the village was without the Indian headstone or post in front of it, which shows that the head of the family is dead ; these are curiously carved trees, sometimes of great height, setting forth in picture writing the various virtues or pursuits of the departed : one which I well remember that of the " Medicine Man," had a hideous representation of a man eating a child carved upon it !

In wandering amongst the deserted houses I came by chance upon an old Indian woman, who was standing in an aimless and listless manner near a grave which was apparently not more than a few months old : on addressing her in the few words of Chinook at my command she at first seemed quite dazed, but after a time began to tell us, as well as we could understand, about the death of her daughter " Three Moons ago," and whose early demise she seemed to mourn with heartfelt sorrow. " One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." There was nothing poetic about this