

the dross of selfishness into the gold of a noble purpose? May God grant, for his dear Son's sake, that the appeal made in the following pages may not be in vain, but that the bread thus cast upon the waters may come back again, even though it be after many days.

The Indians on Vancouver Island and on the main-land of British Columbia are diminishing so rapidly by contact with the white people that in a very few years they must become very rare. I do not, therefore, propose to write much about them. *It is too late.* But the tribes on "Queen Charlotte Island" are much more numerous, and of a more noble race. The habits and characteristics of the one race do not differ much from those of the other—the causes which have had so fatal an effect in the one case will have the same effect in the other.

Queen Charlotte's Island is about 200 miles in length, and varies in breadth from 10 to 60 miles, with an area of 4000 square miles. About one tenth is rich land, so far as discovered; the interior is not known, being impassable owing to the abundance of very heavy timber. Game, fish, and fish oils, are obtainable in quantities sufficient to supply all the wants of the American Continent. There are magnificent and safe harbours. This island is divided by Queen Charlotte Sound from the main-land, the average width of the sound being about fifty miles.

The natives of "Queen Charlotte," named Skittagetts, have been considered the finest specimen of the Indian race on the Pacific. They are naturally savage and warlike, but, at the same time, are quite disposed to be friendly with the "white settlers," and wish the latter to live amongst them. They are very ingenious, and apt to adopt the customs of civilised life. They are nearly as white as Europeans. They number about 4500.

Many are very degraded, though occasionally a few are to be met with who are very industrious, especially those who have for a short time visited the capital. I lived in the ranche of a family belonging to the "Strid-ga-tees" tribe, who were all generally employed at some handicraft, such as making carved ear-rings out of pieces of lead found on the shores after some wreck; cutting out pipes and flutes from a soft bituminous slate found in their neighbourhood. These are all beautifully carved and ornamented, and would do credit to a European mechanic. I have purchased two of these flutes for a dollar each. They are about eighteen inches long, in one piece, the extreme ends being inlaid with lead, giving one the idea of being "mounted in silver;"