

event seen by the public is in reality an election.

The articles distributed with so much display as free gifts (with the exception of blankets and calico torn up into small strips) are all returnable within a year or two. They are not gifts, as many people imagine, but vote-acknowledgments—a public recognition of the rank or social status of the voter (who records his vote by his presence) by the Potlatcher who is a candidate for some position, favor or honor in his clan.

But before proceeding further it is necessary to offer some information as to the constitution of Indian society. You are all aware that it consists of three classes—the nobility, gentry, and common people. These are organized into families (or houses), clan-sections, clans, tribes (communities or villages), and confederacies.

A *family* or *house* is a portion or branch of a clan-section. It has its own crest and sub-chief, subordinate to the clan totem and clan-sectional chief, and of itself or in combination with other kindred families forms a complete clan-section.

A *clan-section* is a company of one or more families having the same totem and totemic name, and forming one division of a tribe.

A *clan* is the aggregate of kindred clan-sections having the same totem and totemic name.

A *tribe* is a community of two or more different clan-sections residing in one place bearing a common territorial name, and