

this habit has gone out of vogue, judging from the faces of many of the children and grown up people as well.

The greatest curse to the Indian has been alcohol, and against this temptation he seems absolutely unable to struggle. Small-pox has ravaged the coast terribly. Rheumatism and pulmonary diseases are their worst ills, while venereal diseases are extremely destructive.

Year by year it is becoming more difficult to study the Indian, as with the increase of travel and commerce, and consequent contact with whites, he is steadily losing his native characteristics and adopting instead our customs and habits. They are reserved and taciturn and show an utter indifference, in fact contempt, towards the whites when by chance they meet on a common camping ground. This latter characteristic is different from that of our North-West Indians, who are also taciturn, but very inquisitive to see what is to be seen. They are not as fond of display and parade as formerly; however, on the 4th of July, a day they anxiously look forward to, many of them are clothed with all the fineries, not Indian, but the best to be had in the stores. Last 4th of July I happened to be at Juncau, where hundreds of Indians had gathered to attend and take part in the festivities. To one accustomed to seeing concourses of Indians in the Northwest it was a sight to study. Many of the young Indian women were dressed in silk, or satin, or velvet; in white, red, blue, yellow or black: the hair "banged" and crowned by a nobby hat; the face powdered à la mode; the feet encased in buttoned kid boots, and perfume and jewelry galore. The older ones content themselves with wool or cotton fabrics; only one squaw did I see with the time-honoured blanket. The young men were similarly well dressed, wearing nice store clothes, silk-trimmed spring overcoats and watches, and smoking cigars. The whole illustrated what has been abundantly proved, and that is, that commerce is the great civilizer of native races.

Dancing and singing were formerly a part of their ceremonies of welcome, trade and war; but now the dancing is that of Americans and confined generally to festive gatherings. At the dance or ball given on the above day in the Juneau Opera House, the race with which some of the Indian ladies waltzed was very marked. By nature the Indian