

the interior country, who always stand erect when they address their people, or strangers. Almost the whole of the people of this Village were naked except a rude kilt round the waist, the few women that were dressed looked much better than those who were naked; from what I could see and learn of them they are very sensual people. They had a few Sea Otters¹ on which they set a high value, more than they were worth, and although Astoria had been settled a few months, yet they had been unable to settle any steady rate of barter, either for furs or provisions, every Sturgeon, or Salmon had to be again valued in barter; a great part of this fault lay in the very low quality of the goods, especially the cotton goods, and all their Tobacco was in leaf and of the lowest price. The Natives were displeas'd with several of their articles.

These people had many Slaves, all that I could learn of them was, that they were prisoners taken in their marauding expeditions along the sea shore, most of them youths when taken; they appeared as well off as their masters, except their paddling the Canoes, and hauling the Seine Net, in all which their masters took a share of the labor. For their war expeditions they have Canoes well arranged for this purpose, made of Trees drifted down the River; these Canoes were all of Pine, some of them fifty feet in length, by four to five feet in breadth; they had fashioned them to be high at the stern but much more so forward; which was decked about ten feet, and rose sloping to the height of full three feet above the rest of the Canoe, the extreme end of which is flat, with a width sufficient for two men to stand on; on this deck, the warriors stand for attack, or defence, each armed with one, or two, long spears. Their defensive armour is made of well dressed buck Moose Skins which are well tied over the shoulders, and hang loose before them, and in this manner are well calculated to deaden the force of the arrow,

¹ *Latax lutris* (Linn.). [E. A. P.]