

are often erected on such occasions, more, perhaps, to glorify the giver of the feast than the dead whose memory he strives to honor. Only the most wealthy indulge in these feasts, and guests are invited from all the settlements, even the most remote. As in civilized life, these elaborate banquets often reduce their host to bankruptcy; yet he is content to spend the rest of his life in poverty with the clear conscience of having glorified his ancestor.

Many of the customs alluded to in this paper have become, or are rapidly becoming, things of the past. Sorcerers are losing their influence; excepting in the more remote tribes, the blanket has been doffed for white man's ready-made clothing; pupils in the Sitka mission school object to being called Indians. "We are Alaskans," they say; potatoes for their own consumption and to sell are raised in their gardens, and the old method of cooking with hot stones has been replaced by the stove and modern cooking utensils.

They are ingenious, imitative, bright; and treat the women and especially the aged, with the utmost kindness.

Of their future prospects Mr. Niblack says: "Contact with the whites has staggered and arrested these Indians in their development. They are now adjusting themselves to a new mode of life. Although much reduced in numbers, they are far from being near extermination. Much is to be hoped for in the recent establishment of industrial and other schools, and in the general interest now taken in the Indians. In the prohibition and prevention of the sale of liquor to them a great step has been taken. Much more needs to be done in the suppression of prostitution, in the recognition of Indian rights to hunting and fishing grounds, and in medical assistance to a people childishy ignorant of the simplest laws of health. Their Indian doctors are fast disappearing, and with them much of the degrading superstition of an ethnical group capable of almost any rise in the scale of civilization."

A FARMER'S PHILOSOPHY

HE TUMBLES ON TO A FEW GOOD REASONS WHY THERE ARE HARD TIMES.

THERE is being so much said in this country about hard times and the scarcity of money, and as everybody has a cause and knows a remedy, I thought I would write to tell your readers what I think is the cause.

"We buy more than we produce.

"There is too much flour and bacon shipped here every year. The things we ought to make at home we are buying.