

PLATE 1.

FIG. 1. Mask called "Hamschuin," used by the "Hametze" of the Fort Rupert Indians at their dances, etc. The face is carved from wood, painted black, red, and white, and inlaid with thin plates of copper and flakes of mica. The bristling crown is made of splints of whalebone. The three perforated and one solid appendage on either side are cut from leather. The lower jaw is movable, and provided with a beard made of tufts of human hair.

On the nose of the mask sits a kind of horse-fly, with a large head, the wings of which can be made to flap by threads passing into the interior of the mask. The fly may be turned around a perpendicular peg, and is made of wood, wings and all.

A sort of basket-work of bent slips of wood, on which rows of short splinters of whalebone represent hair, serves to fix the hollow mask upon the head of the wearer. The eyes are inserted in a peculiar manner, and fastened with a thong of leather, and beside each is an opening for the wearer to look through.

FIG. 2. [2a shows the whole complete.] Dance-dress of a chief, consisting of a cap plaited of rushes and covered with red flannel, and surmounted by a coronet of rays made of the mustaches of the sea-lion. A broad strip of cotton stuff hangs from the hinder upper border of the cap, reaching nearly to the earth, and on this are fastened rows of ermine-skins on little rods of whalebone (40 skins in 5 rows) which cover the back of the wearer.

To the front of the cap is attached a mask carved of wood, on which a human face is represented with a nose hooked like a bird's beak, and bent into the mouth. The eyes and mouth are inlaid with iris-shells. Below the face is a small human figure, holding a wolf's head by the hair, and on each side two squatting figures, one before the other. Around the whole goes a border of iris-shells, and around this one of seventeen squatting figures. The painting is in blue, red, and black.

This costume is worn by the chiefs among all the northern Indians, with the exception of the Flat-heads, at all their festivities, especially when one plants a new post, or when his daughter assumes a new lip-stud, or attains marriageable age. The costume is valued at forty blankets; the one here represented comes from the Chimsians, who live about Chatham Sound and on the islands, and is called "Amalaid."