

## SKEENA RIVER VILLAGES.

1. N. K. Kit-an-maiksh [Git-an-max R.] place for putting out net. Until 1879 this village was located on a flat just above the junction of the Skeena and Bulkley rivers. Shortly before that time the inhabitants had begun to build a little further up on a low bluff overlooking the Skeena where the present town of Hazelton now stands. The old village was destroyed by fire about 1876. The population of Hazelton, or "The Forks," as the town is commonly called, in 1881 numbered about 200; at present it numbers about 250. Many families have removed thither from Kishpiyeux and from villages down the river. The town recently has become of considerable importance, as it is at the head of steamboat navigation on the Skeena. It contains a very important Hudson's Bay Post and is the distributing point for miners' supplies for the interior, especially for the Omenica country, which has for some time been the scene of much mining activity.

2. N. K. Kish-pi yeoux [Kits-pioux, Kits-piouse, R.] place of ancestor Pi-yeoux. This village, at the junction of the Kishpiyeux and Skeena rivers, was in 1873 the most populous on the upper Skeena. At that time it numbered about 400 people; now it contains 225. Between 1881 and 1895 the population decreased about thirty-three per cent., much of this being due to successive epidemics of measles.

3. N. K. Kish-ga-gass [Kits-ge-gaas, Kits-ge-goos, R.] place of ancestor Ga-gass—on the Babine river, nine miles from its mouth. This village twenty years ago had over 300 inhabitants, but many have removed to Hazelton and many perished in the mines of Caribo and Omenica. Kish-ga-gass now numbers about 275, and is probably the most primitive of all Tsimshian villages.

4. N. K. Kaul-daw [Gal-doe, R.] dwellers beyond. This village is doomed to utter extinction; numbering about 150 people in 1875, there are at the present time only about thirty who claim Kaul-daw as their home, and even many of these remain there only one or two months of the year. Many of the former inhabitants have removed to Kish-pi-yeoux. Within five years the village will be completely abandoned.

5. N. K. Kitze-gukla people of Zegukla mountain. This is the first of the Skeena river villages as we go toward the coast from Hazelton. In 1873 its population was about 250, but it is now about eighty. In 1875 many of the houses were burned from a conflagration which started on the opposite side of the river, caused by the carelessness of two miners. Much trouble and ill feeling grew out of this, and the Indians attempted to close the river to navigation. The difficulty was not settled until a man-of-war appeared at the mouth of the Skeena.