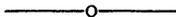


and size of the family. The chains indicate a union of efforts for defensive purposes, while the mounds were probably sentinel posts or monuments reared in commemoration of remarkable events.

R. A. WALLACE.

Tipton, La.



THE HUIDA-KWUL-RA, OR NATIVE TOBACCO OF THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE HAIDAS.

Editor American Antiquarian:

A great deal has been written of late concerning ancient tobacco pipes. Pictures of pipes of all sorts of shapes and sizes have been placed before the public. In this letter I shall make a departure, and lay before them something new, the *huida-kwul-ra*, or ancient tobacco of the Haidas. While writing this article, I have been obliged to Prof. Dawson, of the Canadian Geological Survey, for a few thoughts on the subject, in his report of 1878-9. Likewise to my friend, Mr. Hall, the Hudson Bay Co.'s chief officer at Fort Simpson, who has also made inquiries amongst the Haidas on the subject, as well as to my own research, extending over a number of years. The subject, if it does not interest your readers, will at least shed a ray of light on the ancient history of this coast.

Down from the distant ages of the past, long before they ever heard of tobacco, the Haidas used a narcotic plant, which was cultivated by them, not only for their own use but to serve as an article of trade with neighboring tribes. Speaking of it, Prof. Dawson says: "To prepare the plant for use, it was dried over the fire on a little frame-work, finely bruised in a stone mortar, and then pressed into cocks. It does not appear that they smoked it, but being mixed up with a little lime prepared by burning clam snells, was either chewed or held in the cheek." This plant, once extensively cultivated by all the Haidah tribes, has been, so far as I am aware, abandoned for many years. The last person to grow it seems to have been an old woman at Gumshed's village, on an inlet of that name, towards the southern end of these islands. She grew it up to about 1878, when it seems to have given place to the imported article.

Descriptions given me of this plant by various persons, place its identity as a species of poppy beyond a doubt. It is described as a plant with tall stems. On the extremity of each were a number of balls full of seeds. In ancient times, when the climate was warmer (I quote tradition), it used to grow very large; so large that in order to get a supply of seeds, it was necessary to shoot them off with bow and arrow. Owing to changed condi-