

at the mouths of fresh-water streams, and are several hundred yards in length by five or six feet in depth, while a few are miles in length, and some reach a maximum depth of over nine feet. The presence of stumps over five feet in diameter standing on nine feet of these layers, of which but few are more than an inch or two in thickness, indicates a considerable antiquity for the lower layers. These are composed almost exclusively of the well preserved shells of clams and mussels, scattered among which are found a very few points and barbs rubbed out of bone, such as were used recently for harpoons, and bone-choppers for preparing cedar-bark, exactly like the implements used to-day in the manufacture of cedar-bark, mats, and clothing. Numerous stone pebbles with battered ends, such as are still used in a game resembling quoits, and a copper ornament, in shape like those made of iron and now worn in southern Alaska, were also found in the heaps. One pair of these ornaments, made of copper, was found in a grave in the interior. The extreme scarcity of archaeological specimens in the very extensive shell-heaps of northern Vancouver Island is what we might expect if the early people depended as largely as do the present natives upon cedar products easily disintegrated by the warm, moist climate. The scarcity of human remains in the shell-heaps may be accounted for on the supposition that tree-burial, where the bodies fall and are soon destroyed or the bones scattered, was as extensively employed in former times as at present. Everything which has been found tends to prove that the ancient people who discarded the shells