

Notes and Observations on the Kwakwiool People of the Northern Part of Vancouver Island and Adjacent Coasts, made during the Summer of 1885; with a Vocabulary of about seven hundred words. By GEORGE M. DAWSON, D.S., F.G.S., Assistant-Director Geological Survey of Canada.

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During the Summer of 1885, the writer was engaged in the geological examination of the northern part of Vancouver Island and its vicinity, the territory of the Kwakwiool people. In connection with the prosecution of his work, he was in constant and intimate association with this people, and enjoyed many excellent opportunities of obtaining facts respecting them, of hearing their traditions and stories, and of becoming familiar with their mode of life and habits of thought. The notes, made at the time, are here presented in a systematised form. As thus set down in order, they are intended to be merely a record of facts and observations, and are offered as a contribution toward our knowledge of the Indians of the west coast. No attempt is made to theorise on the observations, nor has the time at my disposal been sufficient to enable me to institute the comparisons which suggest themselves readily enough between these and other tribes of the region. These tribes, together with their ideas and their lore, such as they are, are passing away before our eyes, or where they still show evidence of continued vitality, they are losing their old beliefs and ways. This being the case, it is perhaps needless to apologise for the necessarily incomplete character of this paper in some respects.

A map has not been prepared to accompany this paper, but that published in the Annual Report of the Geological Survey for 1886 embodies a large number of native names of places, including those of all the villages here referred to.

I.—TERRITORY AND BOUNDARIES OF THE KWAKWIOOL PEOPLE.

The people speaking dialects of the Kwakwiool language, and constituting together one of the largest groups of the coast of British Columbia, have, so far as I know, no general name of their own. Dialectic differences of minor importance, from a linguistic point of view, are regarded by them as clearly separating tribe from tribe. The name "Kwakwiool" has, however, by common consent, come to be employed to designate the whole, though strictly applicable to but two important tribes now inhabiting, with others, the vicinity of Fort Rupert. To the north, their territory comprises the coast of the mainland and a number of adjacent islands, bordering on the territory of the Tshimsian and interlocking with it. They enclose the peculiar and isolated Bilhoola people, who inhabit Dean Inlet and the North and South Bentinck Arms, on the north and south, and on the seaward side. Thence, southward, they claim the mainland coast to the entrance of Bute Inlet. Their territory includes, also, most of the islands by which the Strait of Georgia is closed to the north, and the north-east coast of Vancouver Island to some