

dragged it out of the water and laid it on the beach, where they commenced tearing it to pieces with their teeth. The two bands of men immediately surrounded them, and so hid their horrid work. In a few minutes the crowd broke again, when each of the naked cannibals appeared with half of the body in his hands. Separating a few yards they commenced amid horrid yells their still more horrid feast of eating the raw dead body. The two bands of men belonged to that class called the *medicine men*.

“ I may mention that each party has some characteristics peculiar to itself; but in a more general sense their divisions are but three, viz: those who eat human bodies, the dog-eaters, and those who have no custom on the kind. Early in the morning the pupils would be on the beach, or on the rocks, in a state of nudity. Each had a place in the front of his own tribe; nor did the intense cold interfere in the slightest degree. After the poor creature had crept about, jerking his head and screaming for some time, a party of men would rush out, and after surrounding him, would commence singing. The dog-eating party occasionally carried a dead dog to their pupil, who forthwith commenced to tear it in the most dog-like manner. The party of attendants kept up a low growling noise, or a whoop, which was seconded by a screeching noise made from an instrument, which they believe to be the abode of a spirit.

“ Of all these parties, none are so much dreaded as the cannibals. One morning I was called to witness a stir in the camp which had been caused by this set. When I reached the gallery I saw hundreds of Tsimshians sitting in their canoes, which they had just pushed away from the beach. I was told that the cannibal party were in search of a body to devour, and if they failed to find a dead one, it was probable they would seize the first living one that came in