

THE BASKET OF THE KLIKITAT.

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The archæologist is frequently caused to halt in the reconstruction of ancient society by the ignorance of the arts of savages around him. This is especially true of an art which had its culmination in savagery or barbarism, and which began to decline at the touch of civilization. This may be said of the Klickitat baskets. These rare and beautiful baskets are made by the different tribes belonging to the Shahaptian linguistic stock, "a name based on Scouler's report to the Royal Geographical Society in 1841, and confirmed by later scientific men, Gallatin, Hale, Schoolcraft and Latham. The derivation is Salishan, but the meaning is unknown."

The habitat was along the waters of the Columbia and its tributaries, from the Cascade mountains on the west to the Bitter Root range on the east, and from 46° north to 44° south, or what is now Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

The Klickitats have been styled the "Iroquois of the Northwest." They were marauders and robbers. The very word Klickitat means "robber."

One of their favorite haunts in time gone by was the Cascades of the Columbia, and another the dalles or long narrows of the Columbia. They were a constant menace to the trappers and voyageurs from the foundation of the Pacific Fur Company in 1811, and continued to worry and harass the pioneers until they were subdued by the Yakima war of 1836.

The Klickitats are fine-looking and intelligent Indians; they are tall and clean limbed, and as they followed the chase from all time and lived in a higher altitude, they were the superiors in every way of the miserable-looking tribes of the Willamette valley and coast Indians, as the latter tribes traveled about squatting in canoes, subsisting on fish,