

inside the buildings of from twenty-five to forty feet, and a height of ten to twelve feet. Cedar is the wood used in making the houses. They are far from making a mean appearance. The following is their method of building. A row of round posts, a foot thick, and ten to twelve feet high, placed twenty feet apart, and slightly hollowed at the top, is driven firmly into the ground to form the frame-work of the house. The posts are connected by strong cross-pieces, over which lengthwise the roof-tree is placed; a stick, sometimes of twenty inches diameter, and eighty or ninety feet long, hewn neatly by the missel adze, and often to be seen blackened by the smoke of several generations. Some of the inside mainposts often have great faces carved on them; these are not idols, but probably rude artistic efforts undertaken without any view to symbolise the notion which the natives have of a higher being, known as Quawteaht. I could not find that the Ahts possessed for religious purposes any idols that could properly so be called.

Heavy timbers cap the sideposts of the house, and across from these to the roof-tree smaller cross-pieces are laid which support the roof. This roof is formed of broad cedar-boards, sometimes seen of five feet in width and two inches thick, overlaid so as to turn off the water. The roof is not quite flat, but has a slight pitch from the back part. The sides of the house are made of the same material as the roof, the boards overlapping and being tied together with twigs between slender upright posts fixed into the ground. The building is now complete, except that the inmates have no place for the reception of goods. To get this, a sort of duplicate building is made by driving into the ground, close to the exterior upright posts, smaller posts shorter by about two feet, from which small trees are laid across to the opposite side of the house, and then lengthwise from one to the other, at right angles to these small trees, slender posts are laid, on which the natives stow all sorts of things; onions, fern roots, mats, packages of roe, dried fish, guns, and hunting and fishing instruments. There is no ceiling, and with the exception of these poles, the interior is open to the roof. For about a foot deep inside the building the earth is hollowed out, and on the outside a strong stockade of split cedar is sometimes erected, about six feet from the walls. The houses of the Ahts are without windows, and the entrances are small, and usually at a corner of some division of the building. The chimney consists of a shifting board in the roof. There is access from division to division of the house. The inside is divided for family occupation into large squares, partitioned for four feet in height; in the middle of each square is a fire on a ring of stones, and round the sides are wooden couches raised nine inches from the ground, and covered with