

feuds, cannibal feasts, slave-catching expeditions, and infanticide. Remains of the carcasses of several Queen Charlotte Islanders, whom they had recently caught and murdered, we saw on the beach, a little distance from their camp. The murder of infants, chiefly females, arose, Mr. Moffat thought from nothing more than the disinclination of the mother to bring them up. I mixed a good deal with the Indians during my short stay. I saw several large images in and about their houses, but I do not think that any homage is paid to them. A few of the leading men were made to understand my business. They said it was very good, and hoped soon that I should come back and stay with them. They looked rather hurt that I was passing them by."

On the night of October 1st, Mr. Duncan reached Fort Simpson, and was heartily welcomed by the Indians. He thus records his first impressions of his future station:—

"From what I have already seen of this place, my firm conviction is that it is just the place to commence the Mission. A more inviting field, I feel satisfied, cannot be found on this coast. The testimony of the officer here, which I have gathered incidentally, and without referring to Missionary work, is exceedingly favourable. The Indians are numerous, from one to two thousand being always resident here. They are also on the increase, which is quite the contrary with nearly all other of the Indian tribes. They are a very fine, robust, and intelligent race. I have already seen specimens of their skill in both the useful and fine arts, which would not shame European skill to have produced. Their superior industry is universally acknowledged by those who know them. The difference of disposition which marks them from the Southern Indians, and has caused them to be held in such dread, is nothing more than this, that they possess a greater force of will, and are perhaps more easily excited to acts of cruelty. A great deal of this manifest boldness may arise also from their conscious superiority, both in numbers and ability; but I do not believe that any honest white man has any thing to fear from them, so far as life is concerned: perhaps property is not so secure. I have already been walking about in nearly every part of their camp, and sat down in one of their houses for nearly half an hour, and I must confess that I felt myself as safe as I did