

II.—*Descriptive Notes on Certain Implements, Weapons, etc., from Graham Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.*

By MR. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE,

*With an introductory note by Dr. G. M. DAWSON.*

(Read May 27, 1891.)

Some years ago a small collection of implements, weapons, etc., from the Queen Charlotte Islands was obtained for the museum of the Geological Survey from Mr. Mackenzie. Most of the objects in this collection are either specially fine examples of the arts of the Haida, or antiques, the value of which is enhanced by some knowledge of their history. The collection had been formed by Mr. Mackenzie under peculiarly advantageous circumstances during his residence at Masset, and was accompanied by a manuscript referring particularly to the various articles, but which includes besides some miscellaneous notes of interest respecting the Haida, their manners, customs and ideas. Mr. Mackenzie states that his notes are the result of original enquiries, and that he has purposely refrained from quoting information from sources already published. His knowledge of the Haida people, together with his habit of close observation, render his notes of special value.

It thus appears to be desirable not only to illustrate a few of the more interesting of the objects in this collection, but also to make this the occasion of publishing the notes referred to, in order that these may be rendered accessible to those interested in the ethnology of the West Coast. By permission of the Director of the Geological Survey, such of the objects as have been chosen for illustration have been drawn for this purpose by Mr. L. M. Lambe. In selecting these objects the writer has endeavoured to choose those which seem to be the most noteworthy, and particularly to exclude such as resemble those which have already appeared in his report on the Queen Charlotte Islands, contained in the Report of Progress of the Geological Survey for 1878-79. The first detailed account of the Haida people was given by the writer in the place just referred to, the material for it having been obtained in the course of a summer spent in exploring the Queen Charlotte Islands for the Geological Survey. Much additional information has, however, since appeared in various publications. Reference may be made particularly in this connection to an elaborate and copiously illustrated memoir by Mr. A. P. Niblack, entitled "The Coast Indians of Southern Alaska and Northern British Columbia," lately published in the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution.

It would appear that the pre-eminent position of the Haida among the various tribes of the West Coast has not yet been sufficiently recognized or appreciated by ethnologists. Twenty years ago little was known about them; the Queen Charlotte Islands were but rudely sketched on the charts, and the reports current as to the treacherous and warlike

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