

laced with quantities of Dentalium or Hyaqua shells. Sometimes these ceremonial wigs were ornamented with stout bristles taken from the sea lion's whiskers, trimmed so as to look like horns worn on the forehead.

As for their wearing apparel, without being strictly uniform, it may be said that in no case was it of a very complicated pattern. Besides the 'pagne' or breech cloth which was seldom removed, they wore a sort of tunic or loose vestment of beaver, lynx or marmot skin, with the fur next to the body. The outside was painted in variegated designs in vermilion and adorned with numerous fringes to conceal the seams and bands of dentalium or dyed porcupine quills. A pair of leggings reaching to the thigh, together with mocassins, which, in the case of the poor were of salmon skin, completed their costume. Unlike their kinsmen of the Great Mackenzie Basin, they had no hood attached to their coat or tunic; but instead, wore a head-dress made of a small ground-hog skin and fashioned somewhat like a Scotch bonnet.

The women's wearing apparel differed only from that of the men by the length of their tunic, which was ordinarily covered with a skin cloak or a woven rabbit skin robe falling to their feet.

Washing may be said to be a European custom introduced among them. They clean their hands only, which they wash by filling their mouths with water and then squirting it over them in intermittent streams<sup>1</sup>.

### III.

Considered in their social condition and daily pursuits, a portion of the Western Dénés are nomadic and part may be described as semi-sedentary. To the first class belong the Sékanais and Eastern Nah'anés, the Chilxotins, Carriers and Western Nah'anés forming the second. Thus, whilst their mode of living prevents the Sékanais from dwelling in houses and congregating together in villages, our Carriers pass the winter in lodges accommodating several families, and

<sup>1</sup> This reminds the comparative Sociologist of a similar custom prevailing among the Tartars or Moguls of the Middle Ages. William of Rubruck, (St. Louis' envoy to the great Khan, 1253) says that "They never wash their clothes. Cleanliness is in no more favor with the men than with their ladies, and their mode of washing their faces and hands is by filling their mouths with water and squirting it over them."—*Relation des Voyages en Tartarie*, Bergeron.