

ardent spirits, which, in spite of prohibition and fines against selling it to Indians, they manage to obtain from their vicinity to Oregon city, where whiskey, or a poisonous compound called there *blue ruin*, is illicitly distilled. I have scarcely ever met with an Indian in that vicinity who would not get drunk if he could procure the means, and it is a matter of astonishment how very small a quantity suffices to intoxicate these unfortunate beings, although they always dilute it largely in order to prolong the pleasure they derive from drinking.

Casenov is a man of more than ordinary talent for an Indian, and he has maintained his great influence over his tribe chiefly by means of the superstitious dread in which they hold him. This influence was wielded with unflinching severity towards them, although he has ever proved himself the firm friend of the white man. For many years, in the early period of his life, he kept a hired assassin to remove any obnoxious individual against whom he entertained personal enmity. This bravo, whose occupation was no secret, went by the name of Casenov's *Skücoom* or evil genius. He finally fell in love with one of Casenov's wives who eloped with him. Casenov vowed vengeance, but the pair for a long time eluded his search, until one day he met her in a canoe near the mouth of the Cowlitz river and shot her on the spot. After this he lived in such continual dread of the lover's vengeance that for nearly a year he never ventured to sleep, but in the midst of a body guard of forty armed warriors, until at last he succeeded in tracing his foe out, and had him assassinated by the man who had succeeded him in his old office.

The Chinooks over whom Casenov presides carry the process of flattening the head to a greater extent than any other of the Flat-Head tribes. The process is as follows:—The Indian mothers all carry their infants strapped to a piece of board covered with moss or loose fibres of cedar bark, and in order to flatten the head they place a pad on the forehead of the child, on the top of which is laid a piece of smooth bark bound on by a leathern band passing through holes in the board on either side and kept tightly pressed across the front of the head. A sort of pillow of grass or cedar fibres is placed under the back of the neck to support it.

This process commences with the birth of the infant, and is continued for a period of from eight to twelve months, by which time the head has lost its natural shape and acquired that of a wedge, the front of the skull becoming flat, broad, and higher at the crown, giving it a most unnatural appearance.

It might be presumed that from the extent to which this is