

sandstone and shark's skin, supplying the place of a file. Carving and painting for decoration is lavishly bestowed; and the artistic abilities of the natives are alluded to by Dixon, who says: "Many of the carvings are well proportioned, and executed with a degree of ingenuity which appears extraordinary amongst a people so remote from civilized refinement." The key to all their carvings is found in their legends; but until a general collection of the latter has been made, it is difficult to arrive at their significance. Individual eccentricity may lead an Indian to make a carving of which he alone knows the meaning; and often only the older Indians are well informed enough to tell off-hand the significance of a carving. These causes, combined with the indifference of the younger generation and the extreme sensitiveness and reticence of the older, make it very difficult to arrive at the meaning of these carvings. The canoes, when of a large size and intelligently handled, make remarkably good sea boats, trips being made in them to Victoria, and to the islands far out in search of birds' eggs. When the sea otter was abundant, these animals were hunted far out at sea, the Haida Indians being especially venturesome and successful. Since the otter has become comparatively rare, fishing has taken the place of that article of the chase, and is one of their principal sources of income and subsistence. They have their own peculiar methods of catching fish, ignoring the white man's hook, and adhering to their own workmanship, which, however, produces a sort of hook very killing in their hands, but which to a white man seems clumsy and awkward.

It is the purpose of the writer to give a series of articles in the CANADIAN INDIAN, on the habits and modes of living of this peculiar race of our Indian population, and to dwell in each on some peculiarity of interest, but as yet very little written about. A field of research has been opened out by the committee now investigating the Pacific