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The Indian Potlatch

SUBSTANCE OF A PAPER READ BEFORE C.M.S.
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, AT METLAKATLA,
B.C., 1899,

BY THE REV. J. B. McCULLAGH,
Editor of the *Caledonia Interchange*.

When this paper was read at our Annual Conference a resolution was passed asking me to have it published. I now, in a way, comply with that request by printing it in the *Interchange*, together with other matter tending to throw light upon the subject.—E.B.

THE Indian Potlatch presents a most difficult problem, not only to solve for the betterment of the race, but even to understand. Indeed no one who has not been born and reared as an Indian among Indians practising it can rightly comprehend what it all means. Though I cannot lay claim to this privilege (!), yet I have had the Potlatch under close observation for sixteen years, and have studied it on the spot, both in theory and practice, as far as one may do so without actually making one.

But while considering myself thus qualified to speak on the subject, I cannot say that I have completely exhausted it, for there are ramifications connected with it which, I must confess, seem to baffle all effort at investigation.