

INTRODUCTION.

THE Tahkaht, or Nootka, is an Indian language occurring on the American coast of the North Pacific. It extends over a region at present wanting in exact definition. This region, at any rate, embraces the coast of the continent from Milbank Sound to Cape Caution, and extends probably as far as Bute Inlet. It further includes the north-east coast of Vancouver Island, as far as Cape Mudge, the north-west coast of the same island as far southward as Nitinaht, and the main land from Cape Flattery, or Classet, to a point some twenty miles further south.

The term 'Tahkaht,' here used for the whole family, as coming nearest to a genuine name, is strictly only applicable to the tribes on the exterior coast of Vancouver Island, which apply that title to themselves, and whose dialects are so similar as to be nearly identical.

In three vocabularies—one coming from the north-east of Vancouver Island, and two from Milbank Sound—I find that two have one word in ten allied to the Tahkaht proper, and the other is nearly identical with it.

Mr. George Gibbs, well known for his labours in the field of Indian language, kindly enables me to furnish the numerals from these three sources,—

Numerals.	N.E. of V. Island.	Milbank Sound.	Milbank Sound.
1	... Cha-wak Numm Mennoh
2	... At-lah Maatl Mah-loh
3	... Kat-se-chah	... Yeo-tohw Yo-toke