

## WHEN PATLATCHES ARE OBSERVED.

BY JAMES DEANS.

Some time ago I sent you the first half of this paper on the patlatches of our aborigines; to-day I send you the other half. There was another sort of patlatch, which I shall now explain. It has been from remote ages the custom of our aborigines, at least of those living near the northern coasts, to at first give their children filthy names, which they could not be otherwise than ashamed of in riper years, and endeavor by all means to obtain a better one.

This could be got in the following manner: A certain amount of goods had to be given to the chief and to the tribe as a patlatch, for which he or she obtained, not only a better name, but also a higher rank amongst their people. Along with the new name and rank was a dance for the occasion, and was the principal one that night, because it belonged to the new name and rank into which the party was initiated. The means to obtain this had to be acquired by their own exertion, industry and bravery. A person who had some push about him soon got ahead and was respected by the whole village, while a lazy, shiftless person got neither name nor rank, and was looked upon as little better than a slave. Girls, too, at the age of puberty, had to give a patlatch, at which time she gave away the savings of years; that is, she had been saving up for years in anticipation of living to see that day. With the first appearance of her womanhood she was shut up in a small room, which she was not allowed by any means to leave for one month. Her food was even passed into her room. When again at liberty she called together the villagers, and to them gave away all she had of personal property. In return she got a better name and a higher social position in the tribe, and at the same time had a hole punched in her lower lip, preparatory to wearing a lip piece or labret. These labrets, by the social usages of these people, had to be exchanged for bigger ones every time she made a patlatch, until, in very old women, their faces looked hideous. The Hidery women's greatest ambition was to be like Cal-Cate-jude, the typical woman of the northern tribes, especially of the Hidery. The girls' room was generally a corner of the house partitioned off by blankets or calico. On the front of her room was hung one of her blankets with the crest sewed on it in beads, or with colored thread. The name given by the Hidery to this ceremony is "Lull." When her lull is over, and she is giving her patlatch, they have the dance which belongs to her crest, and so ends her lull.