

THE COAST INDIANS.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHIEF AIJUL- TALA—A LEGEND OF THE BELLA COOLAS.

A VISIT TO THE GREAT CHIEF KOMOKOA, GOD OF THE SEA—THE FIRST INDIAN HOUSE.

There was once a man named Dockelaisla, who lived at Bella Coola, and who had four sons. Once he told his sons to go and see what they could do, so, getting their canoes and spears ready, they started on their voyage. They were gone four days (four being a lucky or perfect number among Indians) without seeing anything of hair seals, of which they were in search. At last being disheartened by their ill-luck, they determined to go out further to sea, out from the Bella Coola Inlet. They journeyed on until they came to a little bay about sundown, when they camped for the night, making their beds in the canoe. During the night they heard something flapping against their canoe, and one of their number went to investigate. It turned out to be only a Dog-Fish. They camped in this bay for four nights; each night the same flapping against the canoe occurred, but on the fourth night they caught the Dog-Fish and tore off the ear-bone from the skull and threw it overboard. After this was done nothing else happened to disturb their slumbers; but one of the brothers awoke and thought he felt something like rain beating on his face. He looked around and saw a large mansion, but to make sure he was not dreaming in his sleep he bit one of his fin-