

along lakes and rivers, and who live on a mixed diet of fish and flesh, have a finer stature and bearing than the fish-eaters on the coast. Of all the tribes in Vancouver Island the Klah-oh-quahts, who live in Klah-oh-quaht Sound, probably are, as a tribe, physically the finest.\* Individuals may be found in all the tribes who reach a height of five feet eleven inches, and a weight of a hundred and eighty pounds, without much flesh on their bodies. The extreme average height of the men of the Aht nation ascertained by comparison of a number, is about five feet six inches, and of the women about five feet and a quarter of an inch—a stature which equals that of the New Zealanders.† Many of the men have well-shaped forms and limbs. None are corpulent, and very few are deformed from their birth. I have, however, seen several who had been born crippled; one, with withered crooked legs, stiff at the knees, was an excellent canoe-man. The men, as a rule, are better-looking than the women. The latter are not enticing, even when young, though one meets with some good-looking women, but these in a few years, after reaching womanhood, lose their comeliness. They are short-limbed, and have an awkward habit of turning their toes in

\* “Klah-oh-quaht,” in the native tongue, means “another people,” but this tribe is now in every respect the same as the others.

† The following ridiculous account of the Ahts is contained in the latest book in which they are mentioned: Abbé Domenech’s *Residence in the Great Deserts of North America*. “The men (the Nootkahs) are below the middle height, with thick-set limbs, broad faces, low foreheads, and rough, coppery, and tanned skins. Their moral deformities are as great as their physical ones. Their dialect is exceedingly difficult, and the harshness of their pronunciation incredible.” The abbé evidently knows nothing about the people.