

Superstition held the people as slaves, while witchcraft kept them in continual terror. A few hairs, or scrap of a garment that had been worn next the person, falling into the hands of a witch, might become the charm that would bring illness and death to the victim. The hideous medicine rattle hurried many a one to death; conjuring flourished; the dog-eaters tore the flesh from living dogs, while others made a pretence (only a pretence) of eating the flesh of dead human bodies. When trade with the whites began to be carried on, strong drink became a new factor in the heathen orgies. At times the whole tribe would be in a drunken debauch. To obtain liquor was sometimes difficult in face of the stringent liquor law. No effort was too great to get it. So it came that in the latter part of the summer of 1873 a large canoe set out from Fort Simpson for Victoria, a distance of some six hundred miles, to procure a supply of liquor for the winter feasting. A young chief and his wife were among the party. The mother of this chief