

sino Inlet (Vancouver Island) and elsewhere, where the natives are still numerous and have scarcely been reached by missionaries, though similar posts are found, they are small, shabby, and show little of the peculiar grotesque art found so fully developed among the Haidas.

**Villages.**

As before mentioned, the permanent villages are generally situated with regard to easy access to the halibut banks and coast fisheries, which occupy a greater proportion of the time of the natives than any other single employment. The villages are thus not infrequently on bleak, exposed, rocky coasts or islands, though generally placed with care, so as to allow of landing in canoes even in stormy weather. The houses may stand on a flat, elevated a few feet above the high-tide mark, and facing seaward on a sandy or gravelly beach, on which canoes can be drawn up. The houses are arranged side by side, either in contact, or with spaces of greater or less width between them. A space is left between the fronts of the houses and edge of the bank, which serves for a street, and also for the erection of the various carved posts, and for temporary fish-drying stages, &c. Here also, any canoes are placed which it is not desired to use for some time, and are carefully covered with matting and boughs to protect them from the sun, by which they might be warped or cracked. As a rough average, it may be stated that there are at least two carved posts for each house, and these, when the village is first seen from a distance, give it the aspect of a patch of burnt forest with bare, bristling tree-stems. The houses themselves are not painted, and soon assume a uniform inconspicuous grey colour, or become green or overgrown with moss and weeds, owing to the dampness of the climate. The cloud of smoke generally hovering over the village in calm weather, may serve to identify it. Two rows of houses are occasionally formed, where the area selected is contracted. No special arrangement of houses according to rank or precedence appears to obtain, and the house of the chief may be either in the centre of the row or at the end. Each house generally accommodates several families, in our sense of the term; which are related together, and under the acknowledged guidance of the elder to whom the house is reputed to belong, and who is really a minor chief, of greater or less importance in the tribe—or village—according to the amount of his property and number of his people.

**Arrangement  
of villages.**

**Carved posts**

In front of one or more of the principal houses platforms are often found, on which a group of people may be seen squatting in conversation or engaged in their interminable gambling game. The forest of carved posts in front of the village, each of them representing a great expenditure of property and exertion, doubtless presents to the native eye a grand and awe-inspiring appearance and brings to the mind a sense of probably mysterious import, which possibly does not in reality