

human being taking possession of a beast or bird, but they formerly believed, and to a great extent still believe, that the spirit of a human being deceased enters the flesh again in the person of a new-born babe, and it was the medicine-man's business to reveal whose soul it was and the name of the child. They also believed that every living thing, beasts, birds, fishes, reptiles and insects had spirits, which after death returned to their spirits abodes.

Great regard was paid by the ancient Haida to the number eight. For instance, eight products of the chase, as seals, otters, etc., was a cause of rejoicing. To catch eight halibut was a subject for congratulation. Eight times ten was favourably regarded, and eight hundred was the *ne plus ultra* or summit of good fortune. A chief who could give away eight hundred pieces of property in a feast was pre-eminent.

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[In a late communication, Mr. Mackenzie states that he has found, on a small island named *Tee*, opposite the mouth of Lignite brook in Naden Harbour, a considerable portion of a stone arrow-head. The portion of an arrow-head in question is nearly two inches in length, but wants both tip and base. It is formed of streaked red jasper, narrowly tapering in form, but rather thick, one side being distinctly more convex than the other. It is rather neatly chipped, and a stone identical with it in character is found commonly in pebbles at the same place. [No. 2680.]

Mr. Mackenzie regards this as a very interesting discovery, as it is the only specimen of a chipped arrow-head or spear-head which he has ever known to have been found on the Queen Charlotte Islands. He further states, that with one exception, the Haida to whom he showed it were much surprised, and said that they had never seen or heard of such a thing before. The exception was an Indian who hunts a good deal on the west coast of the islands, where he stated that he had found such chipped stones at one place there.]

G. M. D.