

14
 fur bearing animals, whose skins then bore a considerable barter value; but probably more to their remote insular position, which debarred them, in a great measure, from that traffic with the interior tribes which was, and is still, a source of profit to the inhabitants of the main. Probably the necessity hence arising has contributed to render them as a body, more industrious than their neighbors. Such at least is their reputation in the manufacture of grass hats, ornamented stone calumets, and other highly wrought articles of the like simple material; to say nothing of the enormous canoes, in the modeling of which they are unsurpassed*. The cultivation of the potato, too, introduced among them by traders, was a branch of industry in which they used formerly to excel their neighbors immeasurably; raising enough, not only for their own supply, but with a considerable surplus for bartering abroad for luxuries not otherwise obtainable. It is not however in the useful arts only that they excel their neighbors; as rogues, where all are rogues, the same pre-eminence is awarded them.

10
 Occupying the main land from Observa-
 tory Inlet and Chatham Sound, northward
 along Clarence's Straits, Revilla Gigedo,
 &c., as far as the latitude of Sitka, is the
 THLINKIT connexion, comprising the Tum-
 gass, Stikine, Cheelcat, Tahco, and other
 branches. A language comparatively har-
 monious, especially as contrasted with
 the rugged energy of the Chimseyan,
 which albeit is to me far more agreeable,
 is spoken by these people. The southern
 portion of the tribe, inhabiting the harbor
 of Tumgass, Clemenceti and other points
 bordering on Chatham Sound, merited the
 character which they bore, that, namely, of
 being well disposed towards the whites;
 and probably from more frequent or inti-
 mate communication with the shipping
 formerly frequenting the coast for trade,
 with more suavity in their deportment than

*These canoes, scooped like those of the Chinooks and other
 N. W. coast tribes, out of the trunk of the *Taxus Occidentalis*
 are noted for their size as well as the elegance of their form.
 No encomium of mine however, could add to the estimation in
 which these beautiful vessels are held by all who have had
 the opportunity of examining them.

usual around. But the northern branches
 of this tribe were less favorably charac-
 terized. Some of the offsets are in com-
 munication for the purposes of barter with
 the Chipewyans frequenting the posts of
 McKenzie's River.

Several tribes are named by travelers as
 occupying the coast between Sitka and
 Behring's Straits; but with the exception
 of the KALIUCHES, or KALUSCIANS, extending
 from the former point to the neighborhood
 of Prince William's sound, these septa,
 whatever the variety of dialect that possi-
 bly exists among them, may all, I have rea-
 son to believe, be referred to the Esqui-
 maux connexion—that widely extended
 race, occupying (the inner shores of Hud-
 son's Bay excepted,) the whole continental
 border, from Cook's Inlet to the extreme
 point of Labrador, with the interjacent
 labyrinths of islands and inlets. The
 character of the Kaliuches seems to be
 even more warlike and ferocious than that
 of their neighbors farther south. Indeed
 it is worthy of notice that up to the point
 where the N. W. coast tribes may be as-
 sumed to terminate, and the Esquimaux to
 begin, the degree of characteristic hardi-
 hood appears to increase with the increase
 of latitude. The Kaliuches have on more
 than one occasion given proof of this, in
 their intercourse with the *Bukians*; who
 at times have had their own trouble to
 maintain their ground. Beyond the Kodi-
 ak this energy seems to decline, and prob-
 ably continues to do so as far as the race
 extends along the eastern coast, where cer-
 tainly it is by no means noted for any de-
 gree of boldness.

Without attempting to give any regular
 or detailed account of their habits and
 customs, I shall now proceed to note brief-
 ly some of the more obvious points where-
 in these western tribes differ from those of
 the east and from each other.

The Ta-cully or Carrier branch of the
 Chipewyans hunt the tract lying approx-
 imately, between 52° and 57° north latitude
 and 120° and 127° west longitude. This
 country was first visited by Sir Alexander
 McKenzie, who in 1793 traversed it on his

*
Thuja gigantea of Nutt.