

who passes by it adds a stone to the heap. This will account for the appearance of several stone mounds, that seem to have been artificially raised, and have the appearance of great antiquity.

The inhabitants of Nootka Sound are quiet and peaceable; they are rather reserved than loquacious; and, in their highest paroxysms of rage, they have neither strength of language, nor significance of gestures sufficient to express their anger. Their public orations consist of short sentences, or single words, forcibly repeated in one tone of voice, accompanied by a single gesture appropriated to each expression.

From their exhibiting human skulls and bones to sale, there can be little doubt but that they treat their enemies with the most brutal cruelty; nevertheless, to Europeans they appear docile, courteous, and good tempered; quick in resenting injuries, and as quickly forgetting them. They seem to be actuated in no degree by the principle of curiosity, which is so predominant in most other nations. Few of them expressed any inclination to examine things with which they were unacquainted, and which, to persons not entirely devoid of curiosity, would excite considerable astonishment. If they can procure the articles that they know are suited to their wants, they are satisfied; and to obtain these they manifest dispositions to roguery, which their virtue can seldom repress.

The only inhabited parts of the Sound are two villages, which are supposed to contain about two thousand souls. The houses consist of three rows, placed at nearly equal distances behind each other, the front row being the largest; besides these there are a few straggling houses at each end. These buildings, if such they may be called, are made of very long and broad planks, resting upon the edges of each other, tied in different