

Though time is required before much can be accomplished, Mrs. Hall hopes, eventually, to distribute in this way a "little leaven," which may have its judicious influences upon the whole nationality.

Mr. Hall is labouring in a field, where he meets with the daily discouragements incident to the reforming of people who are opposed to his work, but he is energetic, and appeared sanguine of successful results in time. He informed me, that the chief obstructions to his efforts were the liquor traffic, the potlaches and barbarous medicine feasts, which he thought should be prevented by law, now that an Agent, who might enforce such an enactment, was stationed there.

In connection with other bad customs, I may also mention that the Kwahkewlths do not inter their dead, but, having placed them in boxes, these are secured in the branches of trees. In the vicinity of the Mission House, I noticed many of these lofty sepulchres, some of which had fallen to the ground in revolting and disagreeable confusion.

These remains, I must confess, did not impress me as being of those "that Kings for such a tomb would wish to die," and desiring especially to improve as much as possible the sanitary condition of the camp, I requested Mr. Blenkinsop to have a proper burial ground set aside, to which they might be at once removed, and where all interments of the dead should in future take place.

Subsequently, I called particular attention to this matter in my address to the Indians, and I took the chief and four or five leading men on the ship to Fort Rupert, so that they might understand from my speech to other tribes of the nationality, that it was the intention to treat all alike in respect of this and other regulations which appeared to me desirable, and which, if necessary, should be enforced.

I was glad to be able to visit the Kwahkewlths in a ship of war, not from a probability of actual rebellion on the part of these otherwise wild and reckless people, but because a proper show of authority is still necessary when endeavoring to break up any of their old and demoralising customs to which they seem devotedly attached.

After spending a few days among them, the "Rocket" proceeded to Kyuqaht on the west of Vancouver Island, where I met Mr. Guillod, who is in charge of the West Coast Agency.

Mr. Guillod had just then finished taking the census, and was about starting again for the purpose of carrying out my instruction, to vaccinate all the Indians of his Agency.

The West Coast or Aht Indians, are not much behind the Kwahkewlths in their love of holding potlaching feasts, gambling, &c., &c. They are, however, much more industrious and amenable to recognized authority.

The immense sea-farm of their coast, which constitutes a most valuable heritage for them, affords easy means of living, and its products are so easily grasped and quickly turned into money, that there seems little likelihood that they will be unable at any time to support themselves, without assistance from Government.

There never has been a season, so far as I am aware, when there has been a scarcity of the valuable fur seal in sight of their villages.

Even when furs are low in the market, the catch is a profitable one for themselves, and, when the season is over, there need be no limit in the manufacture of oil from the prolific dog fish, so common and plentiful all over the coast. Then the salmon and sea otter, the fur-bearing animals of the forests, the wild fowl which frequent the numerous inlets, and lastly the berries that can be garnered with facility to make variety in their winter stores of food—all render subsistence to these "toilers of the sea," practicable and secure; moreover, they have become heavy consumers of goods necessary for the use of civilized people—in many instances extravagant, so that I have little doubt in stating that their contributions to the Dominion revenue in Customs duties is fully equal to those of the same number of whites.

They use very large quantities of sugar, tea, clothing, blankets, &c., and the stocks of flour (mostly imported from Oregon) to be found in their own possession and at the trader's stores surprise me.