

specimen of Indian wiles, may be related as I heard it from the old man's mouth. Hearing that a party of Stekins were on their way to attack his village, he took a strong party of his men and posted them in the woods about a mile from his village, leaving his little son wrapt up in a blanket in a canoe drawn up on the beach, in convenient proximity to the ambush. Suspecting nothing, the Stekins sailed up Cowichan Bay until they spied what they took for an Indian girl left in the canoe while her mother was gathering roots and berries in the woods. They immediately paddled to shore, anxious to secure this easily acquired slave. The little boy had, however, received his directions. Waiting until they were close at hand, in apparent fright, he ran into the woods. Every one of the Stekins was anxious to catch him, and, accordingly, hastily leaving their canoes on the beach they pursued him into the woods; but the boy was too swift-footed for them. Returning to the beach they were horrified to find themselves unarmed and defenceless, surrounded by Locha and his warriors; and it is said all of them were either killed or

taken prisoners.

A score of such tales of treachery and bloodshed could be given. Even when two tribes make peace, the peace is often only a design to treacherously take advantage of each other. These same Stekin Indians were long at war with the Kaloch tribe at Sitka; the one tribe continually molesting the other, and in the intervals of regular warfare cutting off all stragglers in their power. The Stekins, anxious to make peace, invited their enemies to a feast, which they accepted, and all went off well. But the Kalochs not to be behindhand, invited them in return. So the Stekins putting on their cloaks of marten skins, went off and were received with great rejoicing. But in the midst of the merriment the Kalochs rose like one man and slaughtered their unsuspecting guests; literally cutting them to pieces and burning the bodies. These same Kalochs have ever been noted as a very fierce set and gave the Russians much trouble, and have continued to shew their character to the Americans since Sitka was ceded to the United States.

## Runaway Boys.

ONE day three boys were missing, nobody could tell what had become of them, the Bush was scoured, the roads searched and messengers despatched to the Sault to try and gain some clue to their whereabouts. After a little it was discovered that some bread and other things were missing, and it became clear that they had decamped. Their home was 300 miles away, and the idea was that they had probably gone to Garden River, about ten miles below us, with the intention of getting on board the first steamboat that might pass, and so get home; so we made up a crew, and late the same evening despatched the schoolmaster and a posse of boys in the *Missionary* to Garden River. They arrived back the next day, bringing word that a boat had been stolen from one of the Indians there during the night, and that, moreover, an Institution button, with Shingwauk Home, Sault Ste Marie imprinted on it, had been picked up in the sand near the place from which the boat was taken.

Nothing more was heard of these boys for ten days, except that one of the steamboats brought a report that they had seen three boys in an open boat near Bruce

Mines, and that they had been hailed by them and asked for bread. Ten or eleven days after these boys decamped we were preparing to start on an expedition up Lake Superior to Batchewanning; our four sailor boys were ready, dressed in their new blue serge suits and straw hats from England, the *Missionary* was well loaded with camp-kettles, tent and provisions. We got as far as the Sault when the wind which had been favorable suddenly veered round and blew a heavy gale in our faces accompanied by thunder and heavy rain. As it was already between 3 and 4 p.m., it was plain we could not start that day, and just at the critical moment came word that those three runaway boys were on an island forty miles below. Our informant was Shabahgeezhik, a Garden River Indian. The boys, he said, had turned adrift the boat they escaped in, which was a small one, and had taken a larger one belonging to a Sugar Island Indian. This Indian, finding his boat gone, pursued the boys in his canoe, overtook them, took his boat away from them and left them alone to their fate on an island. Shabahgeezhik did not think the boys would be in distress as there