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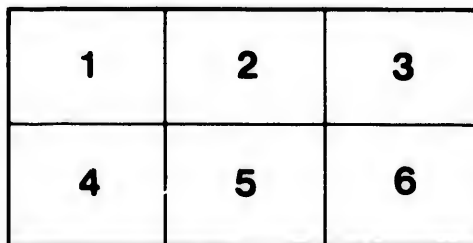
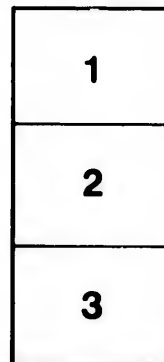
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SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
North-Western Coasts of America.

From Captain *Cook*, who visited those places in the
Summer of 1778.

THE continent of America, being now traced to the north-west, from California, quite up to latitude 70 north; it appears to be separated only from the eastern-most coast of Asia, by a streight of 13 leagues in breadth, called Bherings straits. Captain *Cook* coasted this continent from Nootka-Sound, in latitude 50. to Norton-Sound, in latitude 64; an extent of 700 miles. He was not so long on shore, at any one time, as to be able to give a perfect description of the country, and

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its inhabitants; but, as his is the best account, we can procure, the public must rest satisfied, until they are furnished with a better. It is reported that a gentleman having travelled through Asia, to the country of the Tschouktsches, has crossed Bherings-streights, landed on the American continent; and means to pursue his way by land, through all that continent to Hudson's-bay. Should he live to return, before the completion of this work, our readers may probably have a fuller account of the savage inhabitants of that part of the globe: but, circumstanced as we are, we can only give them the following.

Face of the country. The country in general seems to be mountainous, and in the higher latitudes their mountains are covered with snow. Captain Cook discovered two volcanos near the coast, one a complete cone, with its crater at the very summit in latitude $54^{\circ}.48'.N.$ and longitude $195^{\circ}.45'.E.$ This vulcano, when he was there, continually threw up vast columns of black smoke. It was seldom wholly clear of clouds; at times, both base and summit would be clear, when a narrow cloud, sometimes two or three, one above another, would embrace the middle, like a girdle, which, with the column of smoke, rising perpendicularly to a great height, out of its top, and spreading before the wind into a tail of vast length, made a very picturesque appearance; and in the back ground of the scene, some elevated mountains whose
tops,

tops towered above the clouds, to a most stupendous height, added not a little to its awful grandeur. It may be worth remarking, that the wind, at the height, to which the smoke of this vulcano reached, went sometimes in a direction contrary to what it did at sea; even when it blew a fresh gale. The other volcano is in latitude 60° . $23'$. but emitting only a white smoke and no fire, made no very striking appearance.

At Nootka-sound, the land rises every where into steep hills, agreeing in their general form, ending in round or blunted tops, with some sharp, though not very prominent ridges on their sides, and all of them cloathed round to their summits with the thickest woods, as well as all the flats bordering on the sea. The surface of these hills have but little soil on them, their interior parts being solid rocks, extending to the sea-shore.

The vallies in the neighbourhood of Prince Williams-Sound, which lies in latitude 61° , are filled with pine-trees, about 50 feet high, and 4 feet in girth; and from the drift-wood, which consisted only of firs, and which lay in quantities on the beach, it is supposed that the pines, higher up the country, are much of the same size, and all of the same kind: not a Canadian pine or cypress is to be seen. Prince William's Sound is calculated to be 520 leagues West of any part of Baffin's or Hudson's-Bay; and Captain Cook was of opinion that

if there is any passage from one to the other, it must be, at least part of it, to the North of latitude 72° .

Three degrees and a half West of Prince William's Sound, is the mouth of a very large river, that appears to be navigable, and extends a great way up into the country. This river is now called Cook's River, and the point of land being the most eastern extremity of all America hitherto known, and lying but 13 leagues from East Cape on the continent of Asia, is called, in the charts, Cape Prince of Wales, and situated in latitude $65^{\circ}.46'$. and longitude from Greenwich, $191^{\circ}.45'$. E.

Climate. The climate at Nootka-Sound is infinitely milder than on the East coast of America, under the same parallel of latitude. The mercury in the thermometer in the month of April, never fell in the night lower than 42° . and very often in the day, it rose to 60° . No such thing as frost was perceived in any of the low grounds; on the contrary, vegetation had made a considerable progress, and grass was already above a foot long.

Produce. Though both tin and copper were met with in this country, there is little reason to believe that either of them belong to the place. Neither were any ores of metal seen, except a coarse, red, earthy or ochry substance, used by the natives in painting themselves, which may probably contain a little iron, with a white and a black pigment used for the same purpose.

Besides

Besides the rock and stone that constitutes the mountains and shores, which sometimes contain pieces of very coarse quartz ; things were seen among the natives, made of a hard, black granite, though not remarkably compact or fine grained ; a greyish whet-stone, the common oil-stone of our carpenters, in coarser or finer pieces, and some black bits, little inferior to the hone-stone. The natives use also the transparent, leafy glimmer, or Muscovy glass, a brown, leafy or martial sort ; and they were sometimes seen with pieces of rock chrystal, tolerably transparent. The first two were met with in considerable quantities, and probably are found on the spot ; but the latter seemed to be brought from a greater distance, and were held as valuable.

In Nootka-Sound, the trees consist of the Canadian pine, the white cypress, *Cypressus thyoides*, or wild pine, with two or three other, less common pines. The first two make up two thirds of the whole ; they in general grew with great vigor, and were all of a large size.

Of other vegetable productions there is but little variety, though many might have sprung up. About the rocks were found strawberry, raspberry, currant and gooseberry-bushes, and all in a thriving state, and some few, small, black alders ; also a species of sow-thistle ; goose-grass, some crow's-foot, with a fine crimson flower ; and two sorts of *anthericum*, one with a large, orange flower, and the other with a blue one. Some few, wild roses

were likewise met with, just budding; a great quantity of young leeks, with triangular leaves; a small sort of grass, and some water-creffes, which grew abundantly on the sides of hills.

In latitude 60° were found some currant and strawberry-bushes; a small, yellow-flowered violet, and the leaves of a plant supposed to be the *berechium* of Linnæus, and which the Americans here dress for food, in the same manner as the natives of Kamtschka. In latitude 64° . in the month of September, when Captain Cook went ashore, he found the country, where there was no wood, covered with heath, and other plants, which produced hurtle-berries, cumant-berries, heath-berries, &c. The berries were ripe; the hurtle-berries too much so; and scarce a single plant in flower. The under-wood consisted of birch, willow and alder, which grew thick among the trees. The last consisted wholly of the spruce-fir, none of them above six or eight inches in diameter.

Animals. The animals of this country, could be collected only from the skins in possession of the natives. There are bears, wolves, foxes, deer, racoons, polecats, martins, and the sea-otters, which are found at the islands east of Kamtschka. The bears are small, but of a shining, black colour; the deer seem to be the fallow-deer of Carolina. Foxes are in great plenty, and in as great variety; some being quite yellow, with a black tip to the tail, others of a deep or reddish yellow, intermixed with black;

black; and a third sort of a whitish grey, or ash-colour, intermixed also with black. The ermine is likewise found here, but small and scarce, nor is the hair remarkably fine, tho' quite white, except at the tip of the tail; the racoons and squirrels are of the common sort, but the latter is less than ours, and has a deeper rusty colour running along the back.

Captain *Cook* says, he was clear as to the existence of all the above animals, but that there were two, which he could not distinguish with that certainty; one seemed to be that of the elk, or moose-deer, or buffalo; the other a species of the wild cat, or lynx. Hogs, dogs and goats have not as yet found their way to this place; nor do the natives seem to have any knowledge of our house-rats. Such as they saw on board the English ships, they called squirrels; and the goats they called *cineetla*, which is the name they give to fawns.

At Prince William's Sound, they have the white bear, the wolverene, or quickhatch, with very bright colours; and a large sort of ermine; but one of the most beautiful skins met with, and which seems peculiar to this place, is that of a small animal, about ten inches long, of a brown, or rusty colour on the back, with a great number of obscure whitish specks; and the sides, of a blueish ash-colour also, with a few of these specks, something of the mouse or squirrel kind.

The sea-animals seen off this coast are whales, porpoises and seals. The porpoise is the *phocena*. The sea-otter is of this class, it living mostly in the water. Captain Cook having procured a young one, weighing only 25lb. made a drawing of it. It was of a shining, or glossy black colour; but many of the hairs being tipped with white, gave it, at first sight, a greyish cast. The face, throat and breast were of a yellowish white, or very light brown colour, which in many of the skins, extend the whole length of the belly. It had six cutting teeth, in each jaw; two of those of the lower jaw being very minute, and placed without, at the base of the two middle ones. The fur of these animals, (as I have had occasion to mention before, when speaking of the trade at Kiachta) is certainly softer and finer than that of any other we know of; and therefore the discovery of this part of the continent of North America, where so valuable an article of commerce may be met with, cannot be a matter of indifference. I have had one in my hand, and think it is as soft as the skin of a mole. It was of the same colour as a mole, but the fur rather longer. They are sold by the Russians at Kiachta to the Chinese, from 16l. English, to 20l. the skin.

Birds here, in general, are not only rare, as to the different species, but very scarce as to numbers, and the few there are, are very shy, being constantly pursued by the natives for their feathers. Those which frequent the woods, are crows and ravens similar to ours; a blueish jay

jay or magpye; common wrens, which are the only singing birds they have; the Canadian, or migrating thrush, and a considerable number of brown eagles, with white heads and tails. They have also a small species of hawk; the heron and the *alcyon* or large-crested American kingfisher. They have likewise two species of woodpeckers, one less than a thrush, black above, with white spots on the wings, a crimson head, neck and breast, and a yellowish, olive-coloured belly. The other is a larger and more elegant bird, of a dusky brown colour on the back, richly waved with black, except about the head; the belly of a reddish cast, with round, black spots; a black spot on the breast, and the under-side of the wings and tail, a plain scarlet, tho' blackish above, with a crimson streak, running from the angle of the mouth, a little down the neck on each side. They have also a small bird of the finch-kind, about the size of a linnet, of a dark, dusky colour, whitish below, with a black head and neck, and a white bill; and a sand-piper, the size of a small pigeon, of a dusky brown colour; white below, except the throat and breast, with a broad, white band across the wings. Add to these, humming-birds, which frequently flew about the ships, whilst at anchor; and a very beautiful bird of the hawk kind, met with in 56°. N. latitude. It is something less than a duck, and of a black colour, except the fore-part of the head, which is white; and from above and below each eye, rises an elegant, yellowish-white crest, revolved backwards, like a ram's horn: the bill and feet red. These are frequently seen in large flocks, and

is

is a sea-bird ; perhaps the *alca monocroa* of Kamtschatka, mentioned by *Steller*.

The birds that frequent the waters and the shores, are not more numerous than the others : the quebrantahuefos, gulls and shags are seen off the coast. The shag is our cormorant or water-crow. There are here two or three sorts of wild ducks, one black, with a white head, which flies in flocks ; and the other white, with a red bill ; also a brownish duck, with a black or deep-blue head and neck. They have also grouse, snipes and plover : add to these, the great *lumme*, or diver, found in our northern countries.

Fish are more plentiful than birds, tho' not so various. The principal sorts, found in numbers, are herrings about seven inches long ; the anchovy, or sardine ; a white, or silver-coloured bream ; and another of a gold, brown colour, with many narrow, longitudinal, blue stripes. Other fish are scarce, as a small, brown kind of sculpin, such as is found on the coast of Norway : frost-fish ; a large one, something like the bull head, with a rough skin, without scales ; and a small, brownish cod, spotted with white. There are also considerable quantities of the *chimera*, or little sea-wolf, which is also a-kin to the elephant-fish ; some few sharks, star-fish, crabs, and a large cuttle-fish.

About

About the rocks, there is abundance of large muscles, some a span long, containing now and then, large pearls, but badly shaped and coloured, and a variety of other small shell-fish; and as the natives of Nootka-Sound, had some thick branches of red coral; we may conclude it is found upon the coast.

The only animals of the reptile-kind, found here, are harmless, brown snakes, striped with white, about two feet long, and a brownish water-lizzard, with a tail exactly like an eel.

The insect-tribe seems to be more numerous; for tho' when Captain Cook was at Nootka, the season of their appearing was only beginning, he saw four or five, different sorts of common butterflies; many humble-bees; some of our common, gooseberry-moths; two or three sorts of flies, a few beetles, and some musquitoes.

People. The people of Nootka-Sound, are, in general, of the common stature, but not slender in proportion, being commonly pretty full and plump, tho' not muscular. Their visages are round and full, and sometimes broad, with high, prominent cheek-bones; the face much depressed above, seemingly fallen in, across, between the temples; the nose flattening at the base, with wide nostrils, and a rounded point; the forehead rather low; the eyes small, black, rather languishing than sparkling; the mouth round, with large, round, thick lips, and the teeth

teeth tolerably equal, and well set, but not very white. Few of them have any beards, except old men; those who have, wear it only on the chin, all the rest they pluck out by the root. Their eyebrows are scanty and narrow, but the hair of their heads is very coarse and strong, and, without a single exception, black, straight and lank, hanging down over the shoulders. Their necks are short; their arms and body have no particular elegance in their form, but are rather clumsy, and the limbs in all, are very small, in proportion to the other parts, and crooked or ill made, with large feet, badly shaped, and projecting ancles; which last seems to arise from their squatting so much on their hams and knees, both in their canoes and houses.

Their complexion is naturally as white as ours, but they so incrust their bodies with paint and dirt, that there is no distinguishing the colour of their skin. During their youth, some of them have no disagreeable look, if compared with the generality of the people; but after attaining a certain age, they are all ugly alike. On the whole, a very remarkable sameness seems to characterize the countenances of the whole nation: a dull, phlegmatic want of expression, with very little variation, being strongly marked in all of them.

The women so much resemble the men, that it is not easy to distinguish them, especially as they possess not sufficient, natural delicacy, to render their persons agreeable:

able: and not one did Captain *Cook* see, even among those who were in the prime of life, who had the least pretensions to be called handsome.

In Prince William's Sound, the men are square-made, and strong chested, with very large heads, disproportioned to their bodies; short, thick necks, and large, broad, spreading faces. Their eyes, tho' not small, are not proportioned to their faces, and their noses are broad, and turned up at the tip; their teeth are broad, even and white; and their hair, like those at Nootka, black, thick, straight and strong. Their beards, in general, thin or wanting, and about the lips of those who had them, stiff, bristly, and brown. With these people, indeed, the features vary, and tho' not handsome, their countenances commonly indicate a considerable share of vivacity, good-nature and frankness; yet some have an air of fullness and reserve. Some of their women have agreeable faces, and many are here distinguishable from the men, by a delicacy of features. The complexion of the women is fair, but that of the men, brownish or swarthy.

The natives of Norton-Sound, resemble those of Prince William's Sound, differing much, as we have shewn, from the natives of Nootka, who, according to the best calculation, Captain *Cook* could make, by the number of houses in the two towns of Nootka, and those people

people whom he saw in this last Sound, amount to about 2000 in the whole.

The common dress of the inhabitants of Nootka, is a flaxen mantle, trimmed on the upper edge, with a narrow strip of fur, and at the lower edge, with fringe and tassels. It passes under the left arm, and is tied over the right shoulder, by a string before and one behind, near its middle; thus both arms are left free, and it hangs, evenly covering the left side, but leaving the right open, except from the loose edges falling on it, and except when it is tied round the waist, with a girdle of coarse matting or woollen, which is often done. Over this mantle, which reaches below the knees, is worn a small cloak of the same materials, fringed at bottom, and reaching to the waist. This cloak resembles a round dish-cover, being quite close, except in the middle, where there is a hole, just large enough to admit the head, and then resting on the shoulders, it covers the arms to the elbows, and the body, as far as the waist. The head is covered with a cap of a truncated cone, or like a flower-pot, made of fine matting, having the top frequently ornamented with a round or pointed knob, or bunch of leather tassels, and tied under the chin, to prevent its being blown off.

Besides the above dress, common to both sexes, the men frequently throw over this cloak, a bear, wolf, or sea-otter's skin, with the hair outwards, and tie it above, as an outer cloak, wearing it sometimes behind, and sometimes
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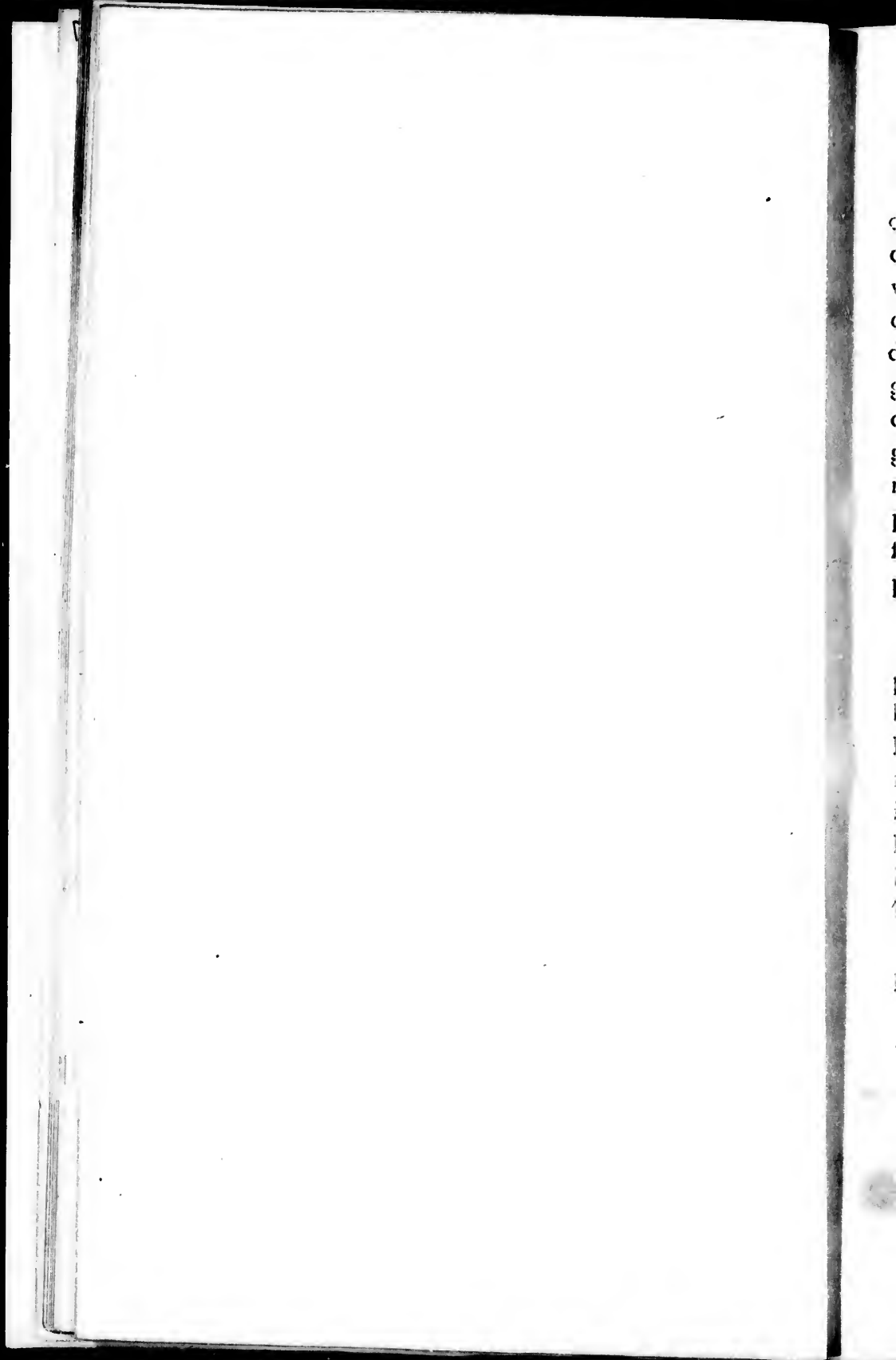
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on the breast before. In rainy weather, they throw a coarse mat over their shoulders. The hair is commonly worn, hanging down loose, but some, when they have no cap, tie it in a bunch, on the crown of the head. This dress, were it kept clean, would by no means be inelegant; but as they rub their bodies over with a red paint, of a clayey or coarse, ochry substance, mixed with oil, their garments contract a rancid, offensive smell, and a greasy nastiness, so that they make a very wretched and dirty appearance; and what is still worse, their heads and clothes swarm with vermin, which they pick off with great composure, and eat.

Whilst their bodies are thus always daubed with red paint, their faces are often stained with a black, or a bright red, or a white colour, by way of ornament: this last gives them a ghastly and disgusting look. They also strew the brown, martial *mica* on the paint, which makes it glitter. The ears of many of them are bored in the lobe, where they make a pretty large hole, and two others higher up on the outer edge. In these holes they hang bits of bone, or quills, fixed on a leather thong; small shells; bunches of woollen tassels, or pieces of thin copper. The *septum* of the nose, in many, is also perforated, through which they draw a piece of small cord; and others wear in the same place, small, thin pieces of iron, brass or copper, shaped almost like a horseshoe, the narrow opening of which receives the *septum*, so that the two points may gently pinch it, and the ornament thus hangs

hangs over the upper lip. About their wrists, they wear bracelets, or bunches of white, bugle-beads, made of a conic, shelly substance; bunches of strings with tassels, or a broad, black, shining, heavy substance, of one piece: and about their ancles, they also wear frequently many folds of leather-thongs, or the sinews of animals twisted to a considerable thickness.

Thus far, their common dress; but they have others which they use on extraordinary occasions, on visits of ceremony, or when they go to war. For the first, they make of the skins of animals, trimmed at the edges, with broad borders of fur, or that woollen stuff they make, embroidered with various figures, and tied on as the other garments, but over them. At such times, the general head-dress, is a quantity of withy, or half-beaten bark, wrapped about the head, stuck with various, large eagle-feathers, or powdered, as it were, with small, white feathers. The face is then painted, with its upper and lower parts of different colours, in stripes, so that the stripes shall appear as bleeding gashes; or it shall be smeared with a kind of tallow, mixed with paint, and formed into a variety of figures, resembling carved-work. Sometimes, again, they will divide their hair into small parcels, and tie it in intervals of two inches, to the end, with thread; and others will tie it behind, as we do, and stick bunches of cypress in it. Thus dressed, they will have a truly savage and ridiculous appearance; but this is much heightened, when they put on, what may be called their monstrous

ous decorations. These consist of an endless variety of carved, wooden masks, or vizors, applied on the face, or upper-part of the head, or forehead. Some of these resemble human faces, furnished with hair, beards, and eyebrows; others, the heads of eagles, and other birds; and many, the heads of wolves, deer, porpoises, and the like. In general, these representations, much exceed the natural size; and they are painted, and often strewed with pieces of the foliaceous *mica*, which makes them glitter; and seems to augment their enormous deformity. They even exceed this, sometimes, and fix on the same part of the head, large pieces of carved-work, resembling the prow of a canoe, pointed in the same manner; and projecting to a considerable length.

The only dress, among the people of Nootka, seemingly adapted to war, is a thick, leather mantle, doubled; which, from its size, appears to be the skin of an elk or buffalo, tanned. This they fasten on, in the common way; but so as to reach up, over the breast quite to the throat; falling, at the same time, almost to the legs. It is sometimes ingeniously painted, in different compartments, like our herald's coats; and is sufficiently strong to resist arrows, and the points of spears. On the same occasion, they sometimes wear a kind of leather-cloak, covered with rows of dried hoofs of deer, disposed horizontally, appended by leather-thongs, covered with quills; which, when they move, make a rattling noise.

Though these people cannot be viewed, without a kind of horror, when equipped in such extravagant dresses; yet, when divested of them, and seen in their common habits, they have not the least appearance of ferocity, but appear, on the contrary, as I have already observed, to be of a quiet, phlegmatic and inactive disposition; destitute, in some measure, of that degree of animation and vivacity, necessary to render them agreeable.

Though not reserved, they are far from being talkative: but their gravity is rather a consequence of their natural disposition, than any sense of propriety, or mode of education; for, when in the greatest passion, they know not how to express their anger, by any warmth of language or significance of gesture.

Their orations, which are made either when engaged in dispute, or to explain their sentiments, on any public occasion, seem little more than short sentences; or rather single words, forcibly repeated, and constantly in one tone, and degree of strength, accompanied only with a single gesture, at every sentence, that of jerking their whole body a little forward, by bending the knee; their arms hanging listless by their sides.

Though there is too much reason to infer, from their bringing human skulls and bones to sale, that they eat their enemies with a degree of brutal cruelty; this circumstance rather marks a general agreement of character,

ter, with that of almost every tribe of uncivilized men, in every age, and every part of the globe, than that they are to be reproached with peculiar inhumanity. They seem to be a docile, courteous, good-natured people; yet quick in resenting what they consider as an injury, but, like most other passionate people, soon forgetting it.

The chief employment of the men, seems to be that of fishing, and killing land and sea-animals, for the maintenance of their families; whereas the women are generally employed in manufacturing their flaxen or under-garments; in preparing sardines for drying, which they carry up from the beach, in large baskets, after the men have brought them in their canoes. The women are also sent in small canoes to collect muscles, and other shell-fish, and perhaps on some other occasions: for they manage these with as much dexterity as the men, who, when in the canoes with them, seem to pay little attention to their iëx, by offering to relieve them from the labour of the paddle; nor indeed do they treat them with any particular respect or tenderness in other situations. The young men appear to be the most indolent, or idle of the whole community; for they were either sitting about in scattered companies, to bask in the sun, or lay wallowing in the sand, on the beach, like a number of hogs; without any covering. But, this disregard to decency was confined to the men. The women were always properly clothed, and behaved,

with the utmost propriety, justly diserving all commendation, for a bashfulness and modesty becoming their sex, and the more meritorious, as the men seemed to have no sense of shame.

Their houses are disposed in three ranges, or rows, rising gradually behind each other, the largest in front, the others less; besides a few, straggling ones at each end. These ranges are interrupted or disjointed at irregular distances, by narrow paths, or lanes that pass upward, but those which run in a line with the houses, between the rows, are much broader. Though there is some appearance of regularity in their disposition, there is none in the houses themselves; for each building, divided by a path, let it be ever so long, may be considered as one house, or many; though there are no complete separations, either without, or within, to distinguish them. They are built of very long and broad planks, resting upon the edges of each other, fastened or tied here and there, by withs of pine-bark, and having only slender posts or rather poles at considerable distances on the outside, to which they are also tied; but within, are some, larger poles, placed aslant. The height of the sides, and ends, of these habitations, is seven or eight feet, but the back-part, is a little higher, by which means the planks, that compose the roof, slant forwards, and are laid on loose, so as to be moved about; either to put close, in order to exclude the rain, or in fair weather

to

to be separated to let in the light, or pass out the smoke. They are, however, upon the whole, miserable dwellings, and constructed with little care or ingenuity: for though the side-planks are made to fit pretty closely together, in some places, in others, they are quite open; and they have no regular doors, the entrance being either by a hole, where the unequal length of the planks has accidentally left an opening; or where, in some cases, the planks are made to lap over each other, and, thus being shortened, leave a kind of door-way. Some holes are also left in the sides, by way of windows, but without any regularity; and, these have bits of mat hung before them, to keep the rain out. The habitations further north, on this coast, where *Bhering* landed, in 1741, are very like those of Nootka.

Within we may frequently see, from one end to the other of these ranges of buildings, without intermission; for though, in general, there are apartments on each side, for the accommodation of families, they are such as do not intercept the light, and often consist of no more than pieces of plank, running from the sides, towards the middle of the house; so that if they were complete, the whole might be compared to a long stable, with a double range of stalls, and a broad passage in the middle. Close to the sides, in each of these parts, is a little bench of boards, raised five or six inches higher than the rest of the floor,

covered with matts, and on which the family sit and sleep. These benches are commonly seven or eight feet long, and four or five broad. In the middle of the floor, between them, is the fire-place, which has neither hearth nor chimney. In one house which Captain *Cook* saw, and which was at the end of a middle range, almost separated from the rest, by a high, close partition, there were four of these benches, each of which held a single family at a corner, and the middle of the room appeared common to them all.

Their furniture consists chiefly of a great number of chests and boxes of all sizes, which are generally piled upon each other, close to the door, or ends of the room or house, and contain their spare garments, skins, masks and other things, which they set a value on; some of these are double, or one covers the other as a lid; others have a lid fastened with thongs, and some of the larger ones have a square hole in the upper part, by which the things are put in and taken out. They are often painted black, studded with the teeth of different animals, or carved with a kind of frieze-work, and figures of birds, or animals, by way of ornament. Their other, domestic utensils are mostly square and oblong pails or buckets to hold water, and other things, with wooden cups and bowls, and small, shallow, wooden troughs, about
two

two feet long, out of which they eat their food; and twig-baskets, bags of matting, &c. Their fishing-instruments, and other things lie or hang up in different parts of the house, but without the least order; so that the whole is a complete scene of confusion.

The nastiness and stench of their houses, is equal to their complexion; for they dry their fish within doors; they also gut them there, which, with their bones and fragments thrown down at meals, and the addition of of other filth, lie about in heaps, and and are not cleared away, till such heaps become almost insupportable. In a word, their houses are as filthy as hog-styes, every thing in and about them stinking of fish, train-oil and smoke.

Filthy however as they are, many of them are decorated with images. These are nothing more than the trunks of very large trees, four or five feet high, set up singly, or by pairs, at the upper end of the apartment, with the front carved into a human face; the arms and hands cut out on the sides, and variously painted: so that the whole is truly a monstrous figure. A net, by way of curtain, for the most part, hangs before them, and it seems at times, that they make offerings to them.

Though their food, may be said to consist, of every thing they can procure, either animal, or vegetable

table, the quantity of the latter, bears a very small proportion to the former. Their greatest dependance is on what the sea produces them. Their chief food is herrings, and sardines; which, being dried and smoked, are sewed up in matts, so as to form bales, three or four feet square. They make also a kind of caviare of herring's roe, which is their winter-bread.

Large muscles they roast in the shells; they are then stuck on long skewers, taken off occasionally, and eaten, dipping them in oil, as a sauce. Of sea-animals, their most common food is the porpoise, the flesh of which they dry in pieces, as they do the herrings. They also make a kind of broth of it, by putting it fresh, with water, into a boiler, and throwing heated stones into it, till sufficiently seethed. They put in the flesh, and take out the stones with a cleft stick, which serves them for tongs. The oil these animals produce is stored away, and often eat with a spoon. Of vegetables, they eat the leaves of the gooseberry and currant, and also of the lily, without any preparation, and some few bulbous roots.

Their manner of eating is exactly consonant to the nastiness of their houses, and persons, for the troughs and platters, in which they put their food, appear never to have been washed, from the time they are first made, and the dirty remains of a former meal are only

only swept away by the succeeding one. They tear every thing solid, or tough, to pieces, with their teeth; for, though they make use of knives, to cut up their animals, they never use them at their meals; and the roots which they dig, they will eat, without even shaking off the earth that adheres to them.

Weapons. Their weapons are bows and arrows, slings, spears, short truncheons of stone, and a small pick-axe, not unlike the common, American *tomahawk*. Their spears have a long point of bone, but some of their arrows are pointed with iron. The tomahawk is a stone, six or eight inches long, pointed at one end, and the other fixed into a wooden handle, which resembles the human head and neck, the stone fixed in the mouth, and representing a large tongue, and to make the resemblance stronger, human hair is fixed to the head. This weapon they call *taaweesh* or *tsuskeeah*.

Their number of stone-weapons, and the great quantity of human skulls, Captain *Cook* saw, lead him to suppose, that they have frequent wars among them, and that those wars are bloody.

Musick. With respect to their manners and customs, we are able to say little of: they seem to be fond of singing, and to make it a part of their ceremonies. When they approached our ship, says
Captain

Captain *Cook*, they all stood up in their canoes and began to sing; some of their songs, in which the whole body joined, were in a slow, and others in quicker time, and they accompanied their notes with the most regular motions of their hands, or beating in concert, with their paddles, on the sides of their canoes, and making other very expressive gestures. At the end of each song, they remained silent a few seconds, and then began again, sometimes pronouncing the word *hoee!* forcibly as a chorus.

They keep the exactest concert in their songs, which are often sung by great numbers together, as those already mentioned. These are solemn and slow, but their music is not of that confined sort found amongst many rude nations; for the variations are very numerous and expressive, and the cadence or melody powerfully soothing. Besides, their full concerts, sonnets of the same, grave cast, were frequently sung by single performers, who kept time, by striking the hand against the thigh. The music, however, was sometimes varied, from its predominant solemnity of air, and there were instances of stanzas being sung in a more gay and lively strain, and even with a degree of humour.

The only instruments of music seen, (if such they may be called) were a rattle, and a small whistle, about an inch long, incapable of any variation, from having
but

but one hole. They use the rattle when they sing, and the whistle, when they dress themselves like particular animals, and endeavour to imitate their howl or cry. The whistles are made in the shape of a bird, with a few pebbles in the belly, and the tail is the handle. They look more like a child's rattle.

Canoes. Their canoes are of simple structure, but apparently well calculated for every useful purpose; from the largest, which carry 20 persons or more, are framed of one tree. Many of them are forty feet long, seven broad, and about three deep. From the middle, towards each end, they become gradually narrower, the after-part and stern ending abruptly, or perpendicularly, with a small knob on the top; but the fore-part is lengthened out, stretching forward and upward, ending in a notched point or prow, considerably higher than the sides of the canoe, which run nearly in a straight line. They are chiefly without ornaments, though some have little carved work, and are studded on the sides with seal's teeth, as are their masks and weapons. A few have also a kind of additional prow, like a large cut-water, which is painted with the figure of some animal. They have no seats, or other supporters in the inside, than several, round sticks, little thicker than a cane, placed across, at mid-depth. They are very light, and their breadth and flatness, enables them to float firmly, without any out-rigger,

out-rigger, which none of them have; and which is a remarkable distinction, between the navigation, of all the American nations, and that of the southern parts of the East Indies, and the islands of the Pacific ocean. Their paddles are light, and small, shaped, in some measure, like a large leaf, pointed at the bottom, broadest in the middle, and gradually losing itself in the shaft, the whole being about five feet long. They have acquired great dexterity, by constant use, in managing these paddles; for sails are no part of their art, in navigation.

The canoes of the nations, in latitude 61° N. longitude 213° , are not made with wood, as at Nootka, except the frame, which consists of slender laths. This is covered with the skins of seals, or such like animals.

The canoes of Prince William's sound, are exactly the same with those of Greenland, and the Esquimaux Indians, and their weapons and instruments of fishing and hunting, are also the same; of course, they need no description.

Implements. Their implements for fishing and hunting, at Nootka, which are both ingeniously contrived, and well made, are nets, hooks and lines, harpoons, gigs, and an instrument like an oar. This last is twenty feet long, four or five inches broad, and about

an

an inch thick. Each edge, for about two thirds of its length (the other third being its handle,) is set with sharp bone-teeth, about two inches long. Herrings and sardines, and such other, small fish, as come in shoals, are attacked with this instrument, which is pushed into the shoal, and the fish are caught either upon or between the teeth. Their hooks are made of bone and wood, and rather clumsily; but the harpoon with which they strike the whale, and lesser sea-animals, shews a great deal of contrivance. It is composed of a piece of bone, on which is fixed the oval blade of a large muscle-shell, in which is the point of the instrument; to this is fastened about two or three fathoms of rope; and to throw this harpoon, they use a shaft of about 12 or 15 feet long to which the line or rope is made fast, and to the end of which the harpoon is fixed, so as to separate from the shaft, and leave it floating on the water, as a buoy, when the animal darts away with the harpoon.

Their fishing wears, are composed of pieces of wicker-work, made of small rods, some closer than others, according to the size of the fish intended to be caught in them. These pieces of wicker-work, (some of whose superficies are at least 20 feet by 12) are fixed up edgeways in shallow water, by strong poles or pickets, that stand firm in the ground. How they were used, Captain *Cook*, cannot say, as he saw no one attending them; but it is apprehended they may

may be erected for the purpose of enclosing fish in the manner I have represented that the Cossacks use them, in Siberia.

Every thing of the rope-kind, is made from thongs of skins, and sinews of animals, or from the same flaxen substance of which their mantles are manufactured.

Their great dexterity in wood-work, may, in some measure, be attributed to the assistance they receive from iron tools, such as chissels and knives; a stone serves them for a mallet, and a piece of fish-skin for a polisher. Their knives are of various sizes; some very large and their blades are crooked, resembling our pruning knife, but the cutting edge in the back or convex part. They sharpen their tools, on a coarse slate, whet-stone, and keep them constantly bright.

Manufactures, &c. Their manufactures and mechanic arts, are far more extensive, and ingenious, whether we regard the design, or the execution, then could have been expected from the natural disposition of the people, and the little progress that cultivation has made among them. The flaxen and woollen garments, with which they cover themselves, are their first care, and the chief object of their attention; the former of these are made of pine-tree bark, beaten into hemp. It is not spun; but, after being properly prepared, is spread

spread upon a stick which is fastened across, to two others that stand upright. It is disposed in such a manner, that the manufacturer, who sits on her hams, at this simple machine, knits it across, with small plaited threads, at the distance of half an inch from each other; though by this method, it is not so close or firm, as cloth that is woven, the bunches, between the knots, fill up the interstices and form it into a compleat cloth; and it has the advantage of being softer and more pliable. Their woollen garments, are very like woven cloth, and the various figures, which are artificially inserted in them, destroy the supposition of their being wrought in a loom. Probably they are made, as we have shewn that the Tartars make their felts. They are of different degrees of fineness, some resembling our coarse rugs or blankets, and others almost equal to our finest sorts, even softer, and certainly warmer. The wool or fur seems to be that of the fox, and brown lynx, and the ornamental parts or figures in these garments, which are disposed with great taste, are commonly of different colours, being dyed chiefly of a deep brown, or of a yellow; the last of which when new, equals in brightness that in the best of our carpets.

To their taste or design, in working figures on their garments, corresponds their fondness for carving on every thing they make of wood. Nothing is without a kind of frieze-work, or the figure of some

some animal upon it; but the most general representation, is that of the human face, which, is often cut out upon birds, and on their stone and bone-weapons. The general design of all these things is sufficient to convey a knowledge of the object they are intended to represent; but the carving is not executed with that nicety, that an ingenious artist would bestow even on an indifferent design. Indeed, in many of their masks, and vizors, they shew themselves able sculptors, not only preserving, with great exactness, the general character of their own faces, but finishing the more minute parts with a degree of accuracy in proportion, and neatness in execution. The strong propensity of these people to works of this sort is remarkable in a great variety of particulars. Small, whole human figures, representations of birds, fish, land and sea, animals, models of their household-utensils, and of their canoes, are found amongst them, in great abundance.

The imitative arts being nearly allied, it is no wonder they should be as good designers, as carvers. The whole process of their whale-fishery, is often seen painted, on the caps they wear; this, though rudely executed, serves at least to shew, that though there is no appearance amongst them of a knowledge of letters, they have some notions of commemorating and representing actions, independant of their songs and traditions.

Their

Their manner of smoke-drying fish, is as follows: they first hang them within their huts, on small rods, about a foot from the fire; afterwards, they remove them higher and higher, to make room for others, till the rods, on which the first hang, reach the top of the house; when completely dried, they are taken down, packed close in bales, and covered with matts till they are wanted. Cod and other large fish are also cured in the same manner, though they sometimes dry them in the open air, without fire.

In trafficking, they betray a knavish disposition, and would carry off the goods they wanted, without making any return; and yet were unwilling to let any grafts be cut, without it was first paid for. The inhabitants of Nootka, are thieves in the strictest sense of the word, for they would pilfer nothing but what they thought would be useful to themselves; and Captain *Cook* had reason to apprehend that stealing is much practised among them, and chiefly gave rise to their quarrels.

The beads, iron, and copper found amongst these people, leave it beyond a doubt, that they must have procured them, through an interview with the more inland tribes, from Hudsons bay, or the settlements on the Canadian lakes; unless it can be supposed that the Russian Indians from Kamtschatka (which is less likely) have extended their habitations further than

the nations of the Eastern islands, communicating along the coast, with those of Prince William's Sound.

Of the political and religious institutions, we can say but little; Captain *Cook* could only observe, that there are such men as chiefs amongst them, called *Acweek*, and to whom the others, are in some measure subordinate; but it appeared that the authority of these chiefs, extended no farther than to the family to which each chief belongs; and who own him for their head. As these *Acweeks*, are not all elderly men, it is concluded, that the title comes to them by inheritance. Of their religion, nothing of any moment could be collected.

Language. Their language is by no means harsh or disagreeable, further than what proceeds from their using the *k* and *b* with more force, or pronouncing them with less softness than we do; and on the whole it abounds, rather with what we may call labral and dental, than with guttural sounds; so that it may be compared to a very coarse or harsh method of lisping. It is difficult to represent this sound, by any combination of our own letters, unless, by *Lsztbl*. This is one of their usual terminations, though it sometimes begins

begins a word. The next most general termination is *tl*, and many words end with *z* and *ʃs*, as for example,

Opulʃztbl, the Sun. *Teeʃhcheetl*, to throw a stone.
Onulʃztbl, the Moon. *Koomitz*, a human skull.
Rahʃheetl, dead. *Quakmifs*, fish-roe.

They seem to take so great a latitude in their mode of speaking, that they have sometimes four or five different terminations of the same word. Their language in general, seems to shew the nearest affinity to the American. *Opulʃztbl*, the Nootka name of the sun, not being very unlike *Vitziputzli*, the name of the Mexican divinity.

The following comparison with other neighbouring countries, will serve to shew their affinity with those countries.

OONALASHEA. NORTON SOUND. GREENLAND. ERQUIMAUX.

One.	-	<i>Taradak</i> :	<i>Adowjak</i> :	<i>Attoufek</i> :	<i>Attoufet</i> .
Two.	-	<i>Alac</i> :	<i>Aiba</i> :	<i>Arlak</i> :	<i>Mardluk</i> .
Three.	-	<i>Canooqn</i> :	<i>Pingafbook</i> :	<i>Pingajuah</i> :	<i>Pingafat</i> .
Four.	-	<i>Sechn</i> :	<i>Shetamik</i> :	<i>Siffamat</i> :	<i>Siffamat</i> .
Five.	-	<i>Chang</i> :	<i>Dallamik</i> :	<i>Tellimat</i> :	<i>Tellimar</i> .
A Canoe.		<i>Eakeac</i> :	<i>Gaiac</i> :	<i>Kajak</i> :	<i>Kiroika</i> .
A Paddle.		<i>Chafec</i> :	<i>Pangehon</i> :	<i>Pantik</i> :	<i>Pow</i> .
Darts.	-	<i>Ogwatook</i> :	- - -	<i>Aglikak</i> .	- - -
The Leg.		<i>Ketac</i> :	<i>Kanaiak</i> :	- - -	<i>Kin-aw-awk</i> .
The Eye-brow.		<i>Kamlik</i> :	<i>Kameluk</i> :	- - -	<i>Coup-loot</i> .

Where I to affix a name, says Captain *Cook*, to the people of Nootka, as a distinct nation, I would call them *Wakassians*, from the word *Wakash*, which is frequently in their mouths. It seems to express applause, approbation, or friendship; for when they appeared to be satisfied or well pleased with any thing they saw, or any accident that happened, they would, with one voice, call out *wakash! wakash!* In short, so essentially do they differ in their persons, their customs and language, from the inhabitants of the Islands in the Pacific ocean, that we cannot suppose their respective progenitors to have been united in the same tribe, or to have had any intimate connection, when they emigrated from their original settlements, into the place where we now find their descendants.

The common dress of the natives of Prince William's Sound (for men, women, and children), is a kind of close frock, reaching generally to the ancles, though sometimes only to the knees. At the upper part is a hole, just sufficient to admit the head; with sleeves to the wrist. Their frocks are made of the skins of different animals, the hairy side outwards: some have their frocks made of the skins of fowls, with the down only remaining on them. The seams of these garments are ornamented with tassels, or a fringe of narrow thongs; and a few, have a kind of cape or collar, and some a hood. When it rains, they put over this, another frock, ingeniously

ingeniously made from the intestines of whales, so thin, and well prepared, as to resemble our gold-beater's skin: this is made to draw tight round the neck, and at the wrists; and its skirts, when they are in their canoes, are so drawn over the brim of the hole in which they sit, that no water can enter.

They generally go naked-legged; but some few have a kind of skin stockings, reaching half way up the thigh; and scarce any appear without mittens for the hands, made of the skins of bears-paws. Those who wear any thing on the head, resemble those at Nootka; having high, truncated, conic caps of straw, and sometimes of wood, resembling a seal's head, well painted.

The men commonly wear the hair cropt round the neck and forehead; but the women allow it to grow long, and most of them tie a small lock of it on the crown; and a few club it behind, after our manner. Both sexes have their ears perforated with several holes, about the outer and lower part of the edge, in which they hang little bunches of beads. The *septum* of their noses they also bore, and thrust thro' it, the quill-feathers of small birds; or little, bending ornaments, made of a shelly substance, strung on a stiff string, or cord, three or four inches long, which gives them a truly picturesque appearance. But the most uncommon and unsightly fashion, adopted by

both sexes, is that of flitting, or cutting the under-lip, quite through, in the direction of the mouth, a little below the swelling part: this incision, which is made even in sucking children, is often above two inches long; and either by its natural retraction, when the wound is fresh, or by the repetition of some contrivance, assumes the true shape of lips, and seems so large, as to admit the tongue through; so that they seem to have two mouths. In this artificial mouth, they stick a flat, narrow ornament, of solid shell, or bone, cut into little narrow pieces, like small teeth, almost down to the base, or thickest part, which has a small, projecting bit at each end, to support it, when put into the divided lip; the cut part then appearing outwards. Others have the lower lip only perforated into separate holes; and then the ornament consists of as many distinct studs; when the points are pushed through these holes, and their heads appear within the lip, as another row of teeth, immediately under their own.

These are their native ornaments: but Captain *Cook*, found many beads among them, of European manufacture, chiefly of a pale, blue colour, which they hang in their ears, about their caps, or join to their lip-ornaments, which have a small hole drilled in each point, to which they are fastened, and others to them, till they hang sometimes as low as the point of the chin. But in this last case, they cannot remove them so easily; but as

to

to their own lip-ornaments, they can take them out with their tongue, or suck them into the mouth at pleasure. They also wear bracelets, of shelly beads, or of a substance like amber.

The men frequently paint their faces of a bright red, and of a black colour ; and sometimes of a blue, or lead-colour, but not in any regular figure ; and the women, in some measure, endeavour to imitate them, by puncturing or staining the chin with black, that comes to a point on each cheek ; a practice, says *Crantz*, very similar to one in fashion among the females in Greenland. They do not paint their bodies, says *Cook*, but I no where ever saw savages, who took more pains to ornament, or rather to disfigure their persons.

For defensive armour, they have a kind of jacket, or coat of mail, made of thin laths, bound together with sinews ; which makes it quite flexible, tho' so close, as not to admit an arrow or dart : it only covers the trunk of the body, and may not be improperly compared to a woman's stays,

Of their domestic utensils, they have round, shallow, wooden dishes ; and others of a cylindrical shape, much deeper ; the sides being made of one piece, bent round, like our chip-boxes, though thick, neatly fastened with thongs, and the bottoms fixed in, with small wooden pegs.

Others they have smaller, and of a more elegant shape, somewhat resembling a large butter-boat, without a handle, but more shallow; made from a piece of wood, or heavy substance, neatly carved; and they have many little square bags, much of the same sort with their outer-frocks, neatly ornamented with very minute red feathers, interwoven with it; also, many chequered baskets, wrought so close, as to hold water; some wooden-models of their canoes; many little images, four or five inches long, cut in wood, or stuffed, clothed in fur, and ornamented as they do themselves; a kind of dolls. And, as a substitute for the rattling-bird of Nootka, they have two or three hoops, or concentric pieces of wood, with a cross-bar fixed in the middle, to hold them by: to these are fixed a great number of dried barnacle-shells, with threads, which serve as a rattle, and make a loud noise, when they shake them.

Captain *Cook* could not speak, with any decision, of their tools; but he saw a kind of stone adze, many iron knives, some straight, others crooked; and some very small ones, fixed in pretty long handles, with the blades bent upwards, like some of our shoemaker's instruments. They have still knives of another sort, near two foot long, shaped like a dagger, with a ridge in the middle. These they wear in sheaths of skins, hung by a thong round the neck, under their frock, and used only as weapons. Every thing they have, however, is as ingeniously made,

as

as if they were furnished with a complete tool-chest; and their sewing, plaiting of sinews, and small work, on their little bags, may be put in competition with the most delicate manufactures, found in any part of the known world. In short, considering the otherwise uncivilized, or rude state, in which these people are, their northern situation, amidst a country perpetually covered with snow, and the wretched materials they have to work with, it appears that their invention and dexterity, in all manual works, is at least, equal to that of any other nation.

The food they were seen to eat, was dried-fish, and the flesh of some animal, either broiled or roasted. They eat also the larger sort of fern-root, mentioned at Nootka. Their drink is water; and they swallow lumps of snow, by mouthfuls. They are decent and cleanly in their food; and though they sometimes eat the raw fat of some sea-animal, they cut it carefully into small pieces with their knives. They are also cleanly in their persons, and in all their utensils.

Their language, from the various signification their words bear, is at first difficult to be understood; and seems to have no affinity with that spoken at Nootka, except the word *Akashou*? which implies, *What is the name of that?* and is the same, at both places.

Namuk

<i>Namuk.</i>	An ornament for the ear.
<i>Lukluk.</i>	A brown shaggy-skin.
<i>Aa.</i>	Yes.
<i>Keeta.</i>	Give me something.
<i>Naema.</i>	Change with me.
<i>Ableu.</i>	A spear.
<i>Veena.</i>	Stranger!—calling to one.
<i>Tawuk.</i>	Keep it.
<i>Yaut ?</i>	Shall I go ?
<i>Wbaebai ?</i>	Shall I keep it ?

At Norton-Sound, in latitude $64^{\circ}.55'$. and $197^{\circ}.13'$. longitude, the dress of the natives is much the same as at Prince William's-Sound; only that here, they wear wide boots, and deer-skin frocks, with large hoods, in which the women carry their children, as do the Eskimauxs and Greenlanders. The women which Captain *Cook* saw, are short and squat, with plump, round faces, punctured from the lip to the chin; their complexion a light copper-colour, black and short hair; the men with little beards; and both sexes have black teeth, seemingly filed down level with the gums.

The dwellings of these people, were seated close to the beach, and consisted simply of a sloping roof, without any side-walls, composed of logs, and covered with grass and earth. The floor laid with logs; the entrance

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SNUG CORNER COVE.

W. H. L. & Co.

at one end; the fire-place juſt within, and a ſmall hole near the door, to let out the ſmoke.

The view given, is Snug-Corner-Cove, in Nootka-Sound, where Captain *Cook* anchored.

Francis Maurelle, a Spaniard, who traced the American coaſt northward, from the coaſt of California, in 1775, tells us, that in latitude $41^{\circ}. 7'$. which is about nine degrees more to the ſouthward, than Nootka-Sound, where Captain *Cook* anchored, the men wear no covering, except the cold is intense; when they throw over their ſhoulders the ſkins of animals, binding their heads with garlands of ſweet-smelling herbs. They likewiſe wear their hair either diſhevelled over their ſhoulders, or as the Spaniards ſay, *en caſtanna*; that is, ſo as to reſemble a cheſnut-tree. In the maps of their ears, they have rings, like thoſe the Spaniards have at the end of their muſquets. They paint their faces, and the greater part of their bodies, with a black or blue colour; and puncture their arms in circles, as the common people in Spain, often paint ſhips and anchors. They bind their loins and legs quite down to the ancles, very cloſely, with ſtrips of hide or thread.

The women cover the tops of their heads with an ornament, like the creſt of a helmet, and wear their hair in two treſſes, in which they ſtick many ſweet-smelling

ing herbs. They also use the same rings in their caps (which are of bone) as the men do in their ears, and cover their bodies with the same skins; besides which, they wear an apron of the same kind, about a foot wide, with some thread formed into a fringe. They likewise bind their legs, in the same manner as the men.

The under-lip of the women is swelled out into three *fascias*, or risings; two of which issue from the corners of the mouth, to the lowest part of what would be the beard in men, and the third, from the highest point, and middle of that point to the lower, like the others; * leaving between each, a space of clear flesh, which is much larger in young women than in old, whose faces are generally punctured or tattooed, so as to be totally disfigured. A mask of such a face may be seen in the Leverian Museum, London.

On their necks they wear various fruits or seeds, instead of beads. Some other ornaments also consist of the bones of animals, or shells from the sea-coast.

Their houses are square, and built with large beams; the roof being no higher than the surface of the ground; for

* This description is rather unintelligible, but we are not mistaken in the translation.

for doors to which, they make use of a circular hole, just large enough to pass through*. The floors of these huts are perfectly smooth and clean, with a square hole, two feet deep, in the centre, in which they make their fire, and round which they are continually warming themselves in cold weather. Such habitations also secure them, when not employed out of doors, from the wind and noxious animals. This similarity of hut or house, to those of the natives in higher latitudes, and further west, is another argument of the north-western coast of America being originally peopled from the eastern coast of Asia.

This tribe of Indians is governed by a ruler, who directs where they shall hunt and fish for what the community stands in need of; and it seems that the authority of this ruler, is confined to a particular village of these habitations; together with such a district of country, as may be supposed to belong to the inhabitants of such a community; who sometimes are at war with the villages.

They are very early taught the use of a bow; for, says this author, we observed an infant, who could scarcely be a year old, shooting arrows from a bow, proportioned to size, and strength; and, who hit the hand at two or three yards distance, if held up for a mark.

* Similar, we apprehend, to Kamtschatka dwellings.

We never observed that these Indians had any idols, or made sacrifices; but, as we found out, that they had a plurality of wives, or women at least, we inferred, with good reason, that they were perfect atheists.

On the death of one of these Indians,, they raised a sort of funeral cry, and afterwards interred the body within the house of their ruler; but from this we could not pronounce that they were idolaters, because the cry of lamentation, might proceed from affliction, and the body might have been burnt, that the corpse might not be exposed to wild beasts, or to avoid the stench arising from putrefaction.

We could not understand their language, but they pronounced the Spanish, with great ease.

Their arms are chiefly arrows pointed with flint, and some of them with iron or copper, which we understood were procured from the north, probably bartered at the English forts in Hudsons bay, or with the traveling hords of Indians, who resort there at stated times. Such arms are to be seen at the Leverian museum, London; brought from King George's Sound, on the N. W. coast of America, latitude 50° by Captain Cook. At this museum is also a bow, from some place

place resembling one from the Labrador coast. These arrows are carried in quivers of wood or bone, and hang from their wrist or neck.

What they most value is iron, and particularly knives, or hoops of old barrels. They are accustomed to tobacco, which they smoked in small, wooden pipes, in form of a trumpet, and procured from little gardens, where they had planted it.

They chiefly hunt deer, cibulos, sea-wolves, and otters. The only birds met with on this part of the coast, were daws, hawks, very small paroquets, ducks, and gulls; there were also some parrots, with red feet, bills and heads, like lories, both in their heads and flight.

The fish, on this coast, are chiefly fardines and cod, and what this voyager calls *pejerey*; of which, they bring home only as much as will satisfy the wants of the day.

We could not learn, continues *Maurelle*, whether these people had ever been visited by any other ships than ours. Indeed, we had every reason to think they had not; but what we saw of the country, leaves no doubt of its fertility, and that it is capable of producing all the plants of Europe. In most of the gullies

gullies of the hills, were rills of clear and cool water, the banks of which were covered with herbs (as in the meadows of Europe) of both agreeable verdure and fragrancy. Among these are Castillian roses, smallage, lilies, plantain, thistles, cammomile and many others. We also found strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, sweet onions, and potatoes, all which grew in great abundance, and particularly nearest the rills.

The hills were covered with very large, high, and strait pines some of which we noticed were 120 feet high, and four in diameter towards the bottom; pines proper for masts and ship-building. The tides here are as regular as in Europe.

Maurelle traced the coast northward, as far as latitude 57° , 18' found the appearance of the country similar to that of latitude 41° and the natives dressed as their more southern neighbours, only that their garments were longer, and they wore a cap on their hair, which covered their whole head. The weather here, in July, was exceedingly cold, with much rain and frost; but in latitude 56° the air was much warmer, owing to some large volcanos burning in that neighbourhood, and which Captain *Cook* also mentions, and which we have described, in the plate of the natives of Nootka Sound.

Thus

Thus has the North-Western Coast of America, been traced from California, to Bherings-Streights, by *Mau-
relle* and *Cook*, and no inlet discovered, to raise hopes of
a north-west passage, by Hudson's-Bay, unless it be
above the latitude 72° . where the seas are obstructed by
large bodies of floating ice, in summer-time; but if a
navigator could get into this latitude before June, it is
generally thought, that the ocean, between the latitudes
80 and 90, is quite open, and that in all likelihood,
land and inhabitants might be found within 10 degrees of
the pole. But though our government has long held out
a reward of 5000*l.* to the first person that shall sail
within a degree of the Pole; and *£*.20,000, to the
first discoverer of a north-west passage by Hudsons-
bay, or north of it; yet, as it is the Greenland fishing
vessels only, that sail so far north, and these vessels
lose their insurance, if they presume to go further than
a certain latitude, the interest of their owners militates
against the encouragement held out by parliament; and
till these two interests can be reconciled, there is
little hopes of such a discovery.

