

stated, it is hoped this arrangement will give rise to no misapprehension.

The Insular Group comprehends a great number of Tribes extending along the shores of the Pacific, from the Columbia River to Sitga,* and up to the Polar Regions, where the northern members of this group are conterminous with the Esquimaux. The Insular and Coast Tribes of Indians may be divided into two Families, the Northern and Southern. The Northern Family consists of numerous little tribes or communities, which have spread from the Arctic Circle to the northern extremity of Quadra and Vancouver's Island. All the Indian tribes in the Russian territory belong to this Family, and their language appears, from the scanty vocabulary published by Wrangel, to be very nearly identical with that spoken in Queen Charlotte's Island.

This northern family, if we select the Queen Charlotte's Islanders as specimens, are by far the best looking, most intelligent and energetic people on the N.W. coast, and in every respect contrast favourably with the Southern Tribes of Nootka Sound and the Columbia. They are taller and stronger than the Nootkans, their limbs are better formed, and their carriage is much bolder. They permit the hair of the upper lip to grow, and their mustachios are often as strong as those of Europeans. Their complexion, when they are washed and free from paint, is as white as that of the people of the S. of Europe. Their women practise a kind of deformity which is unknown among the Southern Tribes. An incision is made in the lower lip in a direction parallel to its length, and an oval piece of wood introduced into the wound, is worn by them on all occasions. The custom of flattening the head, so common among the Southern Tribes, appears to be unknown in any of the districts to the N. of Quadra and Vancouver's Island. The Indians of the Northern Family are remarkable for their ingenuity and mechanical dexterity in the construction of their canoes, houses and different warlike or fishing implements. They construct drinking-vessels, tobacco-pipes, &c. from a soft argillaceous stone, and these articles are remarkable for the symmetry of their form, and the exceedingly elaborate and intricate figures which are carved upon them. With respect to carving and a faculty for imitation, the Queen Charlotte's Islanders are equal to the most ingenious of the Polynesian Tribes.

The more Northern Tribes of this family inhabit the Russian territory, and are enumerated by Wrangel† under the names of Koloshes, Ugalentzes, Atnas, Kolchans, and Kenáies. The Tun Ghaase are the most northern Indians of this family which have any intercourse with English fur-traders: they are a small tribe, inhabiting the S.E. corner of Prince of Wales's Archipelago. Their language, as Mr. Tolmie conjectured, is nearly the same

* Also Sitkha, or Sitka.—Ed. † Or rather Baer in Wrangel, p. 226.—Ed.

as that spoken at Sitga. Mr. Tolmie states that they are the bravest people, as well as the best hunters, on the coast, and have, from the earliest period, possessed and deserved the confidence of the Whites.

The *Haidah* tribes of the Northern Family inhabit Queen Charlotte's Island, but a colony of this people, called the Kygánies, have settled at the southern extremity of Prince of Wales's Archipelago, and in the Northern Island. These Kygánies have had more intercourse with the Whites, and consider themselves more civilised than the other tribes, whom they regard with feelings of contempt. They are very cleanly, fierce and daring; and when unapprehensive of hostilities from abroad, keep up their warlike habits by having an occasional broil among themselves. In former times, when the sea-otter abounded, the Massettes,* Skittegás,† Cumshawás, and other (Haidah) tribes inhabiting the eastern shores of Queen Charlotte's Island, were among the most wealthy on the coast: since the sea-otter has been destroyed, the Haidahs have become poor, and have been reduced to other plans in order to procure blankets. They fabricate most of the curiosities found on the coast, but their staple article is the potato, which they sell in great quantities to the mainland tribes. In the autumn, there is quite a competition among the Haidahs who shall carry early potatoes to the mainland. Fleets of from forty to fifty canoes arrive early in September, and proceed to the different villages of the Chimmesyan‡ nation, and the potato-fair seldom ends without more or less fighting. They also manufacture and export canoes, and are themselves very venturous on the deep. When they visit the mainland, they are bold and treacherous, and always ready for mischief.

This account of the Haidah tribes has been furnished by Mr. Tolmie, and is the more interesting, as it affords very satisfactory evidence of the aptitude of the Queen Charlotte's Islanders to adopt the customs and improvements of civilised life. When Europeans began to frequent the N.W. coast for the purpose of collecting furs, especially those of the sea-otter, the shores of Queen Charlotte's Island afforded an abundant supply of this valuable article, and the Haidah tribes carried on an extensive commerce with the English and Americans. During the period when this trade was flourishing, a taste for European commodities was created, which still continues, although the sea-otter, the sole article in return for which those foreign luxuries could be obtained, has been almost extirpated. In the meanwhile, the Haidahs had learned to cultivate the potato, and to supply the continental tribes with provisions. They now obtain their blankets from the latter, who in their turn procure them from the fur-traders in exchange for their beaver-skins. The taking of this first step in improvement distinguishes the Queen Charlotte's

* Or Masseets.—Ed. † Or Skiddegeet.—Ed. ‡ Chemmesyan?—Ed.