

There is no permanent settlement of Indians at Port Discovery, and during our stay we had visitors from the various neighbouring tribes. The two sexes of all who visited us were dressed almost alike, and can hardly be distinguished in external appearance from each other: both wear their hair long, and both are equally dirty. All the adults have their heads much flattened, which appears to be performed as it is among the more southern tribes, by compressing the frontal and occipital bones by several thicknesses of bark, until they become set, and the head takes a permanent shape.

Their children seem to give them but little trouble: in their infancy they are tied to a piece of bark, which is hung to a tree or pole, where it is kept in motion by a string fastened to the toe of the mother, as is represented in the wood-cut at the end of the chapter.

These Indians appear to have but few of the comforts, and barely the necessaries of life. They live principally on fish, shell-fish, the cammass-root, and potatoes. They have muskets and bows and arrows: the bows are short and small, but possess great strength, and are made of yew: their arrows are pointed with iron or bone.

They also possess large sheath-knives, which they procure from the Hudson Bay Company, in exchange for furs, and from the same source they obtain blankets. For these articles the Company has a regular tariff of prices, which however, is not adhered to when a Boston ship arrives. The natives are sufficiently alive to the advantages they derive from competition, and boasted that in such cases they frequently obtained four or five blankets for articles that usually bring them only one. It was the hope of so advantageous a traffic that caused so much satisfaction when we arrived, and the failure of this hope produced, as we have seen, no little disappointment.

They are not, however, wholly dependent on this trade for their clothing, for some of the tribes manufacture a sort of blanket from dogs' hair, which is substantially woven.

During our stay at Port Discovery, they supplied us plentifully with venison, ducks, geese, salmon, a large species of cod, flounders, herrings, and crabs. They also brought shell-fish, among which were the common clam, (the quahog of the Eastern States,) mussels, and small oysters.

Besides the ornaments we saw among our first visitors, some wampum-belts and strings of dentalium-shells were observed. They have a great passion for carved pipes, for which they cultivate small quantities of a species of tobacco. They also smoke the leaves of the dwarf *Arbutus* mixed with their tobacco: these are powerful astringents, and are also frequently chewed.