

comes closely packed by their rushing into it, when it is taken up and replaced without disturbing the larger one.

They have some kind of roots or vegetable food, which with the berries, are formed into cakes. They are exceedingly fond of oils, and drink large quantities of them, which they procure from fish, bears, &c. These they also use outwardly, mixed with coloured pigments.

The most remarkable custom of these Indians that was related to me, is the manner in which they conduct their funeral rites. If a man dies leaving a widow, she is subject to undergo an ordeal, perhaps as severe as any of the savage practices that prevail elsewhere on a similar occasion. The corpse is always burned; the funeral pile is built and the body placed upon it, and while the fire is lighting, the widow is compelled by the relations of the deceased to lie on it until the heat becomes intolerable; and if she attempts to break out, they not unfrequently thrust her back, when she is often severely burned. At other times she is obliged to pat the breast of her husband until it is consumed, by which she suffers, and not unfrequently falls into the flames without receiving any assistance from the bystanders. After the body is consumed, she is obliged to collect the ashes and deposit them in a small basket, which she must always carry about with her. She afterwards becomes the servant or slave of his relations, who exact of her the severest labour, and treat her with every indignity. This lasts for two or three years, at the end of which time a grand feast is given by the relatives, when the ashes are put into a box, which is placed on a post ten feet high, daubed with representations of animals, men, &c.; there they are allowed to remain until the post decays. The widow is now released from servitude, and is at liberty to marry again.

This tribe, like the others, has priests or medicine-men, who practise incantations. When a body is burned, the priest pretends to receive the spirit of the deceased into his hands, which he closes with many gesticulations. This spirit he is thought to be able to communicate to others living, and when he has selected the person, he throws his hands towards him, and at the same time blows upon him, after which the person takes the name of the deceased, in addition to his own. In case of the death of a chief, or man of higher rank, this belief affords the priest an opportunity of acquiring much influence, and perpetuating his power and consequence.

Fraser's river takes its rise in this region, and flows through it. The country is also well watered by the numerous streams flowing from the mountains. The Company's party never navigate the Fra-