

The ship, on anchoring, was surrounded by many canoes of the Classet Indians, who inhabit the country around Cape Flattery. They were well disposed to trade, and were greatly surprised that so large a ship should want no furs, which were of several kinds: the sea-otter was that most prized, and held at very exorbitant prices, more than they could be bought for in the United States. George, the chief of the Tatoucne tribe, as he terms himself, was on board all day. He speaks a few words of English, and is a fine-looking man. It was difficult to make him or any of his people understand the use of a man-of-war, the number of people on board, and the care that was taken to keep them from coming on board. He showed it by continually asking, "What for so big ship?" "What for so many mans?"—all probably proceeding from his disappointment in not being able to sell his skins. I succeeded in getting his likeness with the camera lucida, with which he was much pleased; and although at first silent, and apparently surly, he finally became quite talkative.



TATOUCHIE CHIEF.

On my remarking a scar on the bridge of his nose, and others in the tribe who had the same mark, he told me it was the custom with them to cut the nose when they had taken a whale, which they considered a great exploit. The fishing season is in August and September. Their mode of capturing a whale is with buoys, made of seal-skin, which are blown up after the fashion of bladders, and form a large oblong float: these are four feet long, by eighteen inches or two feet in diameter, and are attached by a rope to the harpoon or spear, which is thrown at the whale, and becoming fastened to him, prevents his diving down to any great depth; after having a number of these attached to him, he