

short time procured half a bushel of them. They had also larger nets, which very much resemble our own; but on close examination, the manner of forming strands of the cordage was found to be different.

Their language is soft compared to that of the northern Indians, and as much so as that of the Polynesians. In but a few cases was the guttural sound of *tch* observed; and the repetition of syllables is frequent, as "wai-wai," and "hau-hau-hau." Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold obtained a small vocabulary of the language from a chief, and Captain Suter furnished much information respecting it. According to him, although there are many tribes, yet they speak no more than two distinct languages, one of which prevails on the east and the other on the west side of the Sacramento. This information, however, was contradicted by other authorities; but as this subject belongs to the report on philology, I must refer the reader to Mr. Hale's book on that subject for further information.

According to the best authorities, these Indians, so far from being cannibals, will not eat any kind of animals that eat man. They carry burdens in the same manner as the northern tribes, with a strap round the forehead. They live upon various plants, in their several seasons, besides grapes, and even use the *Artemisia*. A species of tobacco is found on the sandy beaches, which the Indians prepare and smoke.

Their bows and arrows were carefully made, and the latter were kept in quivers made of fox-skins, young bears, &c. In each of these they had about forty arrows, pointed with flint and neatly made.

The vegetation throughout the whole course of the Sacramento showed evident traces of salt, and in some places the prairies seemed to be incrustated with it.

At the place where the survey ended, the river was two hundred feet wide, its banks being twenty feet above the river; but it was evident that its perpendicular rise exceeded this, as there was every appearance of its overflowing them; and, according to the testimony of the Indians, the whole country was annually inundated.

On the afternoon of the 31st of August, the party turned to go down the stream, and with the aid of the current made rapid progress. Towards sunset they entered the small stream called Bute, on whose banks they encamped. Here they were much disturbed, both with bears and musquitoes.

On the 1st of September, they made an early start, and about noon reached the village where the theft of Dr. Pickering's pistol had been committed.