

docile Indians, who made themselves quite easy, laughing and joking, and appeared rather to look upon the party as beneath them. They had some resemblance to the Shaste Indians; most of them were naked; the others had a piece of deer-skin thrown over their shoulders; their faces were marked with an expression of good humour. Some of them wore their hair long, extending below the neck and divided from the top; in others, and most commonly, it was drawn back and gathered in a bunch behind, where it was fastened with a string of deer-sinew; their ears were bored, and a short string inserted with a few beads; the face was usually painted, the upper part of the cheek in the form of a triangle, with a blue-black substance, mixed with some shiny particles that resembled pulverized mica.

The Indians were darker as to colour than the northern tribes, and their general appearance resembled that of the South Sea islanders. Their food consists principally of fish and acorns; of the latter they make a kind of black cake by shelling the acorns, drying them in the sun, and then pounding them between stones to a meal, which they mix with a little water and arbutus-berries, which gives it a flavour; it is then formed into cakes about two inches thick, when it is wrapped in leaves and baked; it is quite black and eats like cheese: these acorns are quite palatable in the raw state. The seeds of the different genus of pine are also eaten, particularly one that is peculiar to California. The arbutus-berry is in great plenty, and is also ground into meal; they have also many grapes. The game had also become very abundant, in consequence of the quantities of food, which attracts them as well as the Indians, and many antelopes and deer were observed. Large flocks of California partridges and geese were seen: among the birds was a new species of magpie.

None of the Indians but men visited the camp, the women being left at their rancheria. Our party went to visit it; it was about half a mile below the camp, and consisted of some rude huts, built of poles, and divided by coarse mats into a number of small apartments. The whole was surrounded by a brush fence, which served for a stockade.

The huts were small in size and devoid of comfort or cleanliness. It was remarked that the women were much inferior to the men in personal appearance, looking careworn and wrinkled, probably from hard work; for on them seems to depend the preparation of all their winter's supply of food, at which they seemed to be constantly engaged; while the men are to be seen lounging about, or engaged in games of hazard. They are, however, during the season, engaged in taking salmon, either in weirs, or by spearing: the former method has been described already; for the latter they use a long forked spear or fish-gig, which