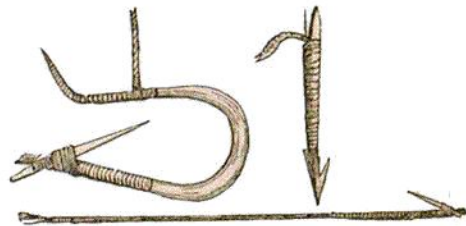


but he found them disinclined to work, although he admitted they were more apt than he had anticipated. This tribe, so far as respects the ability of committing depredations on the whites, is quite harmless, and is rapidly thinning off through diseases contracted by a change of habits. They are all of a wandering character, and change their residences in search of their food, which consists principally of fish, particularly shell-fish. Clams are seen in great quantities among them, strung on sticks, upon which they have been preserved by drying and smoking. They also store up pounded salmon, and the cammass-root. In the fall and winter they are supplied with an abundance of game and wild-fowl, on which they then live; but they are not upon the whole well fed, as they are little disposed to exert themselves to procure a supply of food, when they are not in actual want. In the winter several families live together in their large board lodges: when the spring comes on they again break up, and resort in small parties to those places where they can obtain their food most easily. This tribe, as is the case with most of those in the territory, speak a peculiar language among themselves, but in communication with others they use the Chinook language.

As the spring is opening, small parties of these Indians may be frequently seen on their way, with their goods and chattels tied on their horse's back, or in small canoes, to the different cammass and fishing grounds.

During the salmon-fishery, vast shoals of young herring are seen, which the Indians take with a kind of rake attached to the paddle. The herring are used for bait for the salmon. Their hooks are made in an ingenious manner of the yew tree, and are strong and capable of catching the large fish. They are chiefly employed in trailing for fish. A species of rock cod is also abundant, some of which exceed fifty pounds in weight. Flounders are also to be had in great quantities.



FISH-HOOKS.

I have before stated that Lieutenant Johnson's party was ready for departure on the 19th May; that it consisted of Lieutenant Johnson, Messrs. Pickering, Waldron, and Brackenridge, a sergeant of marines, and a servant. I must do justice to the exertions of this officer in getting ready for his journey, which he accomplished in less time than I anticipated, as the delays incident to setting out on a novel expedition, and one believed by most persons to be scarcely practicable