

Slavery exists among the Chinooks, though from all accounts, in a somewhat milder form than among their Northern neighbours. It was reported, whether on sufficient authority I was unable to ascertain, "that the descendants of slaves obtain freedom at the expiration of three centuries, and that they have the means of keeping the reckoning: and further, that slaves may in general be distinguished by the head not being flattened, though they are careful to perform this process on their children." The practice of slavery is possibly connected with the first peopling of the American continent; and we are at the precise geographical position which may be regarded in many respects as the natural point of influx: but on this subject Mr. Hale's ethnographical map, considered in reference to the existence of a pass over the Snowy range of mountains, affords further elucidation.

A surveying party having been despatched across the Straits, some canoes of the YOOKULTY made their appearance, a circumstance said to have produced a lively sensation among the accompanying Chinooks; but the operations of the survey were interrupted, without the opportunity of an interview. Some Nootka masks were procured through a different source; and they are ornamented with pieces of the Halyotis shell, which is likewise a favourite article with the coast tribes of California.

Such is the superior mildness of the winter in this region, that the H. B. Company's steamboat runs through the inland channels as far as latitude 58° N., throughout the year. Some marvellous accounts were related to us of the more NORTHERN TRIBES; of "their unwillingness to admit any superiority in the White man; and of their attempts to discover the motive power in the steamboat, after constructing various devices in imitation." Eye-witnesses agreed in their superior lightness of complexion over the Chinooks: and a tribe was spoken of, who apply "pressure to the cranium in such a manner that the top is elevated." That mechanical skill and refinement increase on advancing North, is evident from the manufacture of another description of leather, from the richly embroidered cloaks, from the paintings, and from the canoes, which will be spoken of hereafter.

With respect to the future prospects of these maritime tribes, the greater density of a spirited population, and the scanty proportion of