

[1327]

Notes on Collection of Alaskan Curios
by Rev John G. Brady (Y.S., 1874)

Images after the idea of the large ancestral or genealogical & monumental trees which are erected near the houses. A cavity is dug in the back & the remains of the dead after cremation are sealed in it.

Rattles - The round shaped one is used by the Sorcerer in his dancing around the fire. The other is used by any dancer.

Arrow heads &c from various places.

Basket made of fine spruce roots & straw. They are made to hold water & are used as pail. The Chilkat tribe make the best.

Bottle covered with same material.

Halibut hook - Kind which are constantly used.

Trap sticks are very old. They were used as some part of the trigger.

Large Spoon for big chief. With it he dips out of the common pot for himself and family.

Knife. They are skillful in tempering with a charcoal fire & seal oil. They hold the handle with the fingers up & the thumb farthest from the blade.

Charms - used by the doctors on the sick & worn by others in health.

Black spoons made of the mountain goat's horn.

Pipes. All the natives smoke & most always before going to sleep after they turn in.

Whale & man carved from a single stick. The silly fellow once made fun of a whale but was punished at last by being carried away. The natives a great dread of drowning.

Blanket used in dancing & much valued by the natives. The figures are significant. It is made entirely by hand and from the wool of the mountain goat.

Belonged to Chilkat Chief.

John S. Brady
Sitka,
Alaska Dec.