

skins whereon they sleep; but many of them, too lazy to make these platforms, sleep on the floor, in the midst of much dirt.

They have but one door at the side and near the centre of the house; this, although nothing remains inside to be stolen, is barricaded by large heavy pieces of wood, whenever they quit the house to go out a hunting.

Their houses being but slightly made, seldom resist the weather more than one or two years, before they fall to pieces. They then erect new ones, on new plots of ground; thus, by continually shifting from one place to another, the bulk of some of their largest towns are removed three or four miles from where they stood three or four years before, and no vestiges remain of their former habitations.

CALEB SWAN.

## 21. EMBALMING BY THE INDIANS OF OREGON.

By whatever process it is effected, this art appears to exist among the Chinooks and Flatheads of the Pacific coast. Bodies thus prepared are frequently found deposited in secret places. They are generally placed, with the implements they used in life, in canoes, on elevated ground. A correspondent writes as follows:—“At the famous depository for the farmers of California, on Montgomery street, are two specimens which are well calculated to arouse the attention of the reflecting, and to show how intimate, after all, are the relations of the past and the future. The former of these is a Flathead mummy, found in his canoe on the shores of Puget Sound, in a perfect state of preservation. Those who have seen the Egyptian mummy, would be utterly astonished at the exact similitude, save in the conformation of the subject. The forehead of the skull has been evidently depressed by outward mechanical appliances; but, in all else, it is the mummy of the pyramid, in a perfect state of preservation. The eye-balls are still round under the lid; the teeth, the muscles, and tendons perfect, the veins injected with some preserving liquid, the bowels, stomach and liver dried up, but not decayed, all perfectly preserved. The very blanket that entwines him, made of some threads of bark and saturated with a pitchy substance, is entire. The inner canoe, in which he was found, was entirely decayed, and the outer one was nearly gone, yet the body was evidently just as it was prepared by the embalmer; and, although exposed now to the open air, it shows no sign of decomposition. It would seem as if prepared for all coming time. Where these wanderers of the desert learned this art, is a query over which the wise may ponder; and those who are skilled in such things will find food for thought in the strange specimen picked up near the disputed boundary on our western frontier.

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## PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS.

### 22. OUR NATION'S PROSPERITY. A. J. HARTLEY,

A MEMBER OF THE CHICKASAW NATION.

NEVER, probably, since we left our homes east of the Mississippi, have we, as a nation, enjoyed such prosperity and happiness as at the present time.

True it is, that for some time after we emigrated to this country, little or nothing was done either in agricultural or mechanical pursuits, while education was in a great measure neglected. A few there were, who never ceased in their efforts to enlighten their brethren, and turn their minds to the cultivation of the soil; but for awhile they labored apparently in vain. Our people (many of them against their will) had been driven away from their homes and firesides — the homes where they were born — where they had spent their early