



Sketch by Mr Moffat of One of the "Coppers" valued by the Indians about Fort Rupert. Copper said to come from the north, but to be manufactured by the Indians of Ft. Rupert. Beaten flat & thin with ~~rough~~ edges thick edges & ridges across beaten up from below. Painted. Reserved by Chiefs & given away at great feasts in exchange for blankets &c. When new shiny hands do so at an increased price & so rapidly become of enormous value.

"Copper"
of St. Rupert Indians

Loc
2:00

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last eight or ten hours.

The D^s were unable to make out his case at first but said it was a general breaking up.

Some time ago he directed us to forward all the Indian papers to you in case anything should happen to him. I have not met with them yet, and would be very much obliged to you for information as to where and how they are to be forwarded when found.

I remain very sincerely

John W. Tolmie

On Indians

Acc. 876

A very different Country & us
& the Indians. We go back
to Spanish etc explorers, cannot

lead back in Indian history, but
catch glimpses of remote occupation
in their legends & tales. To them

every part, say we has some meaning
& recalls some story. Possibly comparatively
recent, perhaps very, very old as may
have become myths of Ramekela

so dim & so grotesque that can scarcely tell
on what founded. Took Runi that one for
hundreds of years. Find evidence of shell chisels
& subsequent displacement. Runi Indians then
before chisels & that hundreds of years ago as
was at water edge. Here they continued their quiet
life unchronicled by bards or historians
& developed their peculiar arts & customs
Some day doubtless a civilization, but not
shortly ours. Time passing measured by change of
seasons & cycles of wood in great forests
where trees known by annual rings. The 500 & 600
years old could quietly grow. Trees whose
rings terminated when (history) was this changed.
There falling everywhere before the axe, & sound of

all good & v. much

Customs of N. C. Indians

From Gov. Hamilton
Sept. 23rd

Girls just verging on maturity i.e. when their breasts begin to form - take swans feathers mixed with hair and plant bands which they tie round their wrists & ancles, this is to secure long life - They are then very careful that no person uses the dishes they eat out of, it being devoted entirely to their own use - they eat at this time nothing but dry fish and only when starvation will make them eat either fresh fish, or meat - When they get their menses they are then fed by their mothers or nearest female relations, ^{to hand like infants} & on no account would they touch their own food with their hands - They are particularly careful not to touch their heads and keep a neatly made stick to scratch it (a thing I think which must require a vast deal of scratching to judge from their filth & vermin) - They remain outside the lodge all the time they are in this state, in a small hut made for the purpose - They have a small skull cup of skin made to fit tight on their heads and it is not taken off till the menses is finished - they have also a black stripe all the time about 1 in wide painted across the eyes from side to side - They also wear a fringe ^{made} of hair, bones & other ornaments hanging down the forehead below the eyes, this is not taken off till she gets her second menstruation, when the father or nearest relation make a large feast - she then is free to eat as she chooses but may touch nothing fresh for a whole year - after she recovers from her first menses - she will eat partridge but it must be boiled in the crop of the bird (which

I would not believe possible until I saw
it done - The crop is opened, and a small
willow bent round the rim, it is then filled
with water & the meat minced, then hung
on the fire where it will boil like a kettle.

The reason they hang ornament in front of their
eyes is to hinder any bad medicine man from
hurting them in this critical state - They are
very careful not to drift what facing
any medicine man but must turn their
backs round - These habits are left off ~~in~~ afterward
with the exception of their always being obliged
to go outside & remain in a small brush
hut alone ^{during} ~~whilst~~ in their monthly evacuations -
This law is strictly adhered to both with single
& married women -

When a woman is about to get a child
she is expelled the lodge and lives alone in a
hut till well not even her husband goes to see
her, she is attended by female relations - This
horrible custom causes the death of many
children by being frozen - ~~and~~ often a woman
is taken unexpectedly, she ^{in the pains of labor} must get delivered
out side on the snow or where she can, and
do the best till the other women erect a
hut - When she is well - The men if
they kill an animal will not take it in
through the door of the lodge - but through
the roof - and tail first it must be brought
in to avoid bad chance when hunting - this is
only for a few days after the woman enters
the lodge again - No woman will
eat lynx meat as it makes them old
looking & ugly