and that about twenty women were busily engaged in it, making bark mats, and dogs hair blankets, One of the blocks is partly surrounded with a stockade of puncheons, twelve or fifteen feet high, strengthened by very large posts into which a tie beam is mortised.

The Makahs are, as has been mentioned before, almost exclusively maritime in their habits; their country being very small, broken and rocky. They pursue the whale in their canoes, even out of sight of land, and attack him with a daring that would not disgrace New England fishermen. On one occasion a canoe was gone five days. The men succeeded in killing the whale and subsisted on the blubber, chewing some roots which they had with them, for want of water. After all, they were compelled to abandon the fish. Their tackle consists of a harpoon, the point formerly edged with shell, now, usually with copper, very firmly secured to a line and attached lightly to a shaft about fifteen feet long, to which also the line is made fast, a seal skin float is attached by another line and serves to buoy the whale when struck. The scene of the capture is described by eye witnesses as very exciting, two canoes being sometimes engaged, their crews yelling and dashing their paddles with frantic eagerness. When taken, the whale, buoyed up with floats, is towed in triumph to the village, and cut up. They formerly tried out the oil by placing the blubber