a vague claim by chiefs to territorial sovereignty,
as for example, among the Makahs, where any
wrecked property floats ashore, the proprietor
claims from the finder a portion of it, and it is
said payment is sometimes evaded for the use
of particular pieces of ground. Cases have been
mentioned of a claim by a chief to the ownership
of the whole country occupied by his tribe, but
these do not seem to have any foundation in
acknowledged right, or to be actually maintained.
Sneetkum, the former chief of the Skagit is said
to have made such pretensions. As regards the
fisheries, they are held in common, and no tribe
pretends to claim from another, or from indi-
viduals, exemption for the right of taking. In
fact such a claim would be inconvenient to
all parties, as the Indians move about, on the
ground particularly, from one to another local-
ity, according to the season, nor do they have
disputes, as to their hunting grounds. Land
and sea, appear to be open to all with whom
they are not at war. Their local attachments
are very strong.* As regards the right of property
in houses or goods, their ideas are naturally
clearer. The maker of any thing is its necessary
owner, until he voluntarily parts with its pos-
session. So also the captor of fish or game, the
one who digs roots, or raises vegetables; but it

* And they have familiar names for all the grounds, and hereditary claims to the utmost reluctance.