was formerly customary among most of the tribes to kill part at least on the death of the owner

At Chinook, as lately as 1850, an attempt was made to starve a little slave girl to death who had been given to a child in the family previously deceased, and her life was only saved by the intervention of the citizens who offered to pay her price, representing that it would be as good to destroy the value in merchandise, and adding the weight of a threat in case of refusal. Dr. Johnie informs me that the course of the slave trade, has always been from South to North, The only exception in his knowledge being that the Cowlitz Indians, formerly a very strong tribe, used to make forays on the Sound and carry their prisoners to the Columbia river.

Retaliation

The law of life for life, is fully recognized, subject however to compromise on payment of damages. The procedure is about as follows: If one Indian has taken another's life, the revenge is not immediate, it is talked over for some time, perhaps months, during which any overture for a settlement can be made. If none is offered, the relatives of the deceased with a sufficient party of their friends, proceed to the murderer, and make a demand on him for satisfaction. If he, or his friends can make up a sufficient amount of goods to appease the next of