on the Northern coast, by letting down long poles to which was attached a piece of wood filled with spikes or teeth, between which the shell became fixed. Its price depended entirely upon its length, forty to the fathom being the standard of value. Where the shells were so short that it required more to make up the required length, they were of very inferior account, but rose proportionately with increased size. A fathom of forty was formerly worth a slave and even now will bring five dollars in money. Single shells were shown me on the Chihalis for which the owner refused a dollar a piece. This money is however now becoming scarce and is far less used than of old, at least by the tribes who have much intercourse with the whites. It was the universal currency through an extensive district. On the Klamath river it is valued even more highly than on the Sound and the Columbia, and those aboriginal peddlers, the Klikatats, frequently carry it to Southern Oregon for sale. The relative value of skins I understand to have been fixed by the fur traders, who assumed beaver as the unit of computation. The Indians are now all well acquainted with our coins from the eagle to the dime for which there are corresponding names in the jargon.

There does not seem to have been any system of keeping accounts, peculiar to them, or