Houses.

The planks of their houses are split from the tree with a fire made of elk horn, or with wooden wedges driven by a stone mallet and are then adzed down to the requisite thickness. Some of these boards are of great size. One that I measured was 24 feet long and 4½ feet in width. They are in preference split from the arbor Vitae or as it is usually called cedar, but sometimes from the fir. There is some variety in the form adopted, the houses of the Chinooks usually sloping each way from a ridge pole in the centre, while those of the Sound Indians have but one pitch. They are usually intended to accommodate several families and frequently a whole village was under the same roof. an excavation of a foot or more in depth is made through the centre of the house, in which the fires are built and where the cooking is done, the raised portion left on either side, being covered with boards or mats to serve as a seat and the bunks for sleeping placed against the sides. sometimes in two tiers. at one end of the house there is frequently a platform for dances or the tamahnous. The houses of the Makahs have been already described and the better class of houses on the Sound differ from them only in size. But the triumph of architecture is displayed in the buildings erected for their festivals. Those were of extraordinary size and strength considering