to a change of residence; the deserted villages tend to strengthen the conjecture of their being wanderers. Territorial property appeared to be of little importance: there was plenty of room for their fixed habitations, and those of a temporary nature which we now found them mostly to occupy, being principally composed of cross sticks, covered with a few mats, as easily found a spot for their erection as they were removed from one station to another, either as inclination might lead or necessity compel: and having a very extensive range of domain, they were not liable to interruption or opposition from their few surrounding neighbors.

From these circumstances alone, it may be somewhat premature to conclude that this delightful country has always been thus thinly inhabited, on the contrary, there are reasons to believe it has been infinitely more populous. Each of the deserted villages was nearly if not quite, equal to contain all the scattered inhabitants we saw, according to the custom of the Nootka people; to whom these have great affinity in their persons, fashions, wants, comforts, construction of these their fixed habitations and in their general character. It is also possible, that most of the clear spaces may have been indebted, for the removal of their timber and underwood to manual labor. Their general appearance furnished this opinion; and their situation on the most pleasant and commanding