

CHAPTER VIII

THE SHAKERS OF PUGET SOUND

My breath was out and I died. All at once I saw a great shining light. Angels told me to look back. I did, and saw my own body lying dead. It had no soul. My soul left my body and went up to the judgment place of God. . . . My soul was told that I must come back and live on earth. When I came back, I told my friends, "There is a God. My good friends, be Christians. If you all try hard and help me, we shall be better men on earth."—*John Slocum.*

In 1881 there originated among the tribes of Puget sound in Washington a new religion, which, although apparently not founded on any doctrinal prophecy, yet deserves special attention for the prominent part which hypnotism holds in its ceremonial. Indeed, there is good reason to believe that the Paiute messiah himself, and through him

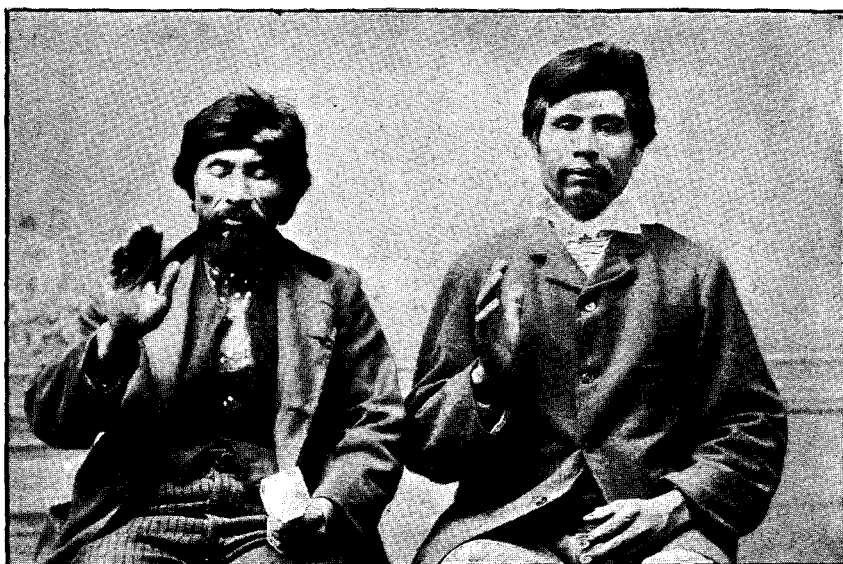


FIG. 67.—John Slocum and Louis Yowaluch.

all the apostles of the Ghost dance, have obtained their knowledge of hypnotic secrets from the "Shakers" of Puget sound.

The founder of the religion is Squ-sacht-un, known to the whites as John Slocum. He is now (1896) about 58 years of age. His chief high priest is Louis Yowaluch, or Ai-yäl as he is called by the Yakima. Both are of the Squaxin tribe. In 1881 (Eells makes it 1882) he "died" or fell into a trance one morning about daylight and remained in that condi-