

was then broken up and placed in birch-bark baskets and offered for sale. These boxes of birch-bark the Rice Lake Indians call *mow-kowks*, and they are said to impart a peculiar taste to the sugar. The Mississaguas of the Bay of Quinté also made sugar in the spring, and sold it to the settlers in small bass-wood bags.

Their manufactures consist of their birch-bark canoes, elegantly carved paddles of cherry-wood (at Rice Lake), and an infinite variety of useful and ornamental objects in birch-bark: baskets, boxes, trays, bags, models of canoes, etc. These they ornament most skilfully with beads and porcupine-quill work, stained with various dyes. Of the inner bark of the pine and basswood they made beautiful mats; they also employed this substance in lieu of cord and rope. The Indians of Rice Lake were acquainted with many vegetable dyes, which they used for staining their fancy birch-bark and porcupine-quill work. For this purpose they used the juice of the Indian strawberry and of the sanguinaria. By boiling the bark of the swamp alder in water, the Mud Lake Indians obtained a good red dye, and a rich yellow one was procured from the root of the black briony.

Like all Indians, the Mississaguas were acquainted with Nature's remedies. The Indians of Rice Lake were for many years celebrated for their skill in the medical art; and in 1860, when the Rev. Peter Jones was dying, some of the Indians of the New Credit were eager to send for the noted Indian doctor at Rice Lake. As late as 1881, there was among the Chemong Lake tribe an old Indian who enjoyed considerable reputation as a doctor. At Rice Lake, a juice obtained from the sanguinaria, or bloodroot, was used as a remedy for rheumatism and cutaneous diseases. At Chemong Lake, great medicinal virtue was attributed to the cranberry; it was administered raw when treating for dysentery; and a cranberry poultice was applied to relieve wounds, inflammations, tumors, etc. For the latter purpose they also used poultices made from the inner bark of the bass-wood and the slippery-elm. The inner bark of the black briony was utilized to obtain a salve for sores and tumors. They roasted and ground to powder the inner bark of the sumach, administering it between the hot and cold fits as a cure for ague. Whiskey, into which had been scraped a whitish powder from a pine-tree fungus, was given as a remedy for colic and stomachic pains. When indisposed, the Indians of the Credit, in the early years of the present century, used to resort to the long peninsula (now an island) forming the harbor of York (Toronto), being fully acquainted with the benefits to be derived from its salubrious atmosphere. The principal diseases from which the Mississaguas have suffered in years past (as shown by government returns) are small-pox, scarlet fever, consumption, inflammation of the lungs, and measles.