

tobacco. Camped at Dead river, where the Courtes Oreilles and some others were gardening.¹ From them I purchased a small quantity of provisions, which, with what I had already, would enable us to proceed without going to Bas de la Rivère.

The small band of Courtes Oreilles settled here came from Michilimakinac about 16 years ago, when the prospects of great beaver hunts allured them from their native country. At first they dispersed in different quarters of the North West. A band went as far as Lesser Slave Lake and Athabasca river, by the Saskatchewan route; but beaver getting scarce, they abandoned those parts and are now nearly all here, where they pass the summer attending to their corn and potatoes, and in the autumn separate to hunt. These people have no inclination to intermarry with the Saulteurs; they keep to themselves, and dispose of their daughters only among their own tribe. Their manner of living is entirely that of their own nation; they erect bark huts for the summer, others of birch rind for the winter, and also use rush mats [pukkwî, in Tanner]. Their utensils and furniture are neatly constructed, and generally kept clean. They are thus much more civilized and more industrious than the Saulteurs. The first corn and potatoes they planted here was a small quantity which I gave them in the spring of 1805, since which period they have extended their fields, and hope in a few years to make corn a regular article of traffic with us.

A Saulteur I found tented with the Courtes Oreilles came to me very ceremoniously, and having lighted and

¹ "We then went down to Dead River, planted corn, and spent the summer there. Shagwawkoosink, an Ottawawaw, a friend of mine, and an old man, first introduced the cultivation of corn among the Ojibbeways of the Red River country," Tanner, p. 180.

"Mr. Henry had traded ten years at Pembinah; he was succeeded by a Mr. M'Kenzie, who remained but a short time, and after him came Mr. Wells, called by the Indians Gahsemoan, (a sail,) from the roundness and fulness of his person. He built a strong fort on Red River, near the mouth of the Assiniboin," Tanner, p. 181.