

carving, and are studded with seal's teeth on the surface.— Some have also a kind of additional prow, usually painted with the figure of some animal. They have neither seats nor any other supporters on the inside, except some small round sticks, about the size of a walking cane, placed across, about half the depth of a canoe. They are very light, and, on account of the breadth and flatness, swim firmly, without an out-rigger, of which they are all destitute. Their paddles, which are small and light, resemble a large leaf in shape, being pointed at the bottom, broad in the middle, and gradually becoming narrower in the shaft; the whole length being about five feet. By constant use, they have acquired great dexterity in the management of these paddles; but they never make use of any sails.

For fishing and hunting, their instruments are ingeniously contrived, and completely made. They consist of nets, hooks, and lines, harpoons, gigs, and an instrument resembling an oar. The arrows they receive from iron tools, contributes to their dexterity in wooden performances. Their implements are almost wholly made of iron; at least, we saw but one chissel that was not made of that metal, and that was only of bone. The knife and the chissel are the principal forms that iron assumes amongst them. The chissel consists of a flat long piece, fastened into a wooden handle. A stone is their mallet, and a bit of fish-skin their polisher.

Little knowledge can we be supposed to have acquired of the political and religious institutions established among these people. We discovered, however, that there were such men as chiefs, distinguished by the title of *Actoveck*, to whom the others are, in some degree, subordinate. But the authority of each of these great men seems to extend no farther than to his own family, who acknowledge him as their head. As they were not all elderly men, it is possible this title may be hereditary.

Their language is neither harsh nor disagreeable, farther than proceeds from their pronouncing the *k* and *h* with less softness than we do. As to the composition of their language, we are enabled to say but little.

We put to sea, in the evening of the 26th of April, with manifest indications of an approaching storm; and these signs did not deceive us. We had scarce sailed out of the Sound, when the wind shifted from north-east to south-east by east, and blew a strong gale, with squalls and rain, the sky being at the same time uncommonly dark. Between one and two o'clock in the afternoon, there was a perfect hurricane; so that the Commodore deemed it exceedingly dangerous to run any longer before it: he therefore brought the ships to, with their heads to the south. In this situation, the *Resolution* sprung a leak in the starboard quarter, which, at first, alarmed us extremely; but, after the water was baled out, which kept us employed till midnight, it was kept under by means of one pump. The wind having, in the evening veered to the southward, its fury in some measure abated; upon which we stretched to the west;