

The Women are obliged to prepare the Land, to mow, to plant, and do every Thing: the Men do nothing except hunting, fishing, and going to War against their enemies: they treat their Enemies with great Cruelty in time of War, for they first bit off the Nails of the Fingers of their Captives, and cut off some Joints, and sometimes the whole of the Fingers; after that the Captives are obliged to sing and dance before them stark naked, and finally they roast them before a slow Fire for some Days, and eat them: the common People eat the Arms, Buttocks, and Carcass, but the Head-men eat the Head and the Heart. Our Mahakas carry on great War against the Indians of *Canada* on the river *St. Lawrence*, and take many Captives, and sometimes there are French Christians among them. Last year our Indians got a great Booty from the French on the river *St. Lawrence*, and took three *Frenchmen*, one of whom was a *Jesuit**; they killed one, but the *Jesuit* (whose left thumb was cut off, and all the Nails and Pieces of his Fingers were bitten) we released him and sent him to *France* by a Yacht which was going to *Holland*. They spare all the Children from ten to twelve Years old, and all the Women they take in War, unless the Women are very old, and then they kill them. Though they are very cruel to their Enemies they are very friendly to us: we are under no Apprehension from them; we go with them into the Woods; we meet with one another sometimes one or two miles from any Houses, and are no more uneasy about it than if we met with Christians: they sleep by us too in our Chambers; I have had eight at once who laid and slept upon the Floor near my Bed, for it is their Custom to sleep only on the bare Ground, and to have only a Stone or a Bit of Wood under their Heads, they go to Bed very soon after they have supped, but rise early in the Morning: they get up before Day-Break. They are very slovenly and dirty; they neither wash their Face nor Hands, but let all the dirt remain upon their tawny Skin, and look as dirty as Hogs. Their Bread is Indian Corn beaten to Pieces between two Stones, of which they make a Cake and bake it in the Ashes; they eat with it Venison, Turkies, Hares, Bears, Wild Cats, their own Dogs, &c. The Fish they cook just as they get them out of the Water, without cleaning, and the Entrails of the Deer in the same Manner; they cook them a little, and if the Entrails are tough, they take one end in their Mouth and the other in their Hand, and cut them off between their Hand and their Mouth, and then they eat them; so they do commonly with the Flesh, but they cut it a little and lay it on the Fire so long as till we could go from the House round the Church, and then it is done, and when they eat it the Blood runs down their Chins. They can take a Piece of Bear's-Grease as large as two Fists, and eat it without any Bread. It is natural for them to have no Beards, not one in an hundred has any Hair about his Mouth: they have also naturally a great opinion of themselves, and when they praise themselves they say *Thy Othkon* (I am the Devil) they mean by it that they are very brave. In order to praise themselves and their People when we tell them they are very expert at catching Deer, they say, *Tkoschs ko aguweechon Kajingahaga kowaane Jountuckcha Othkon*, that is, *Really all the Mohawks are very cunning Devils*. They make their Houses of the Bark of Trees, very close and warm, and place their Fire in the middle of them; they also make of the Peeling and Bark of Trees *Canoes*, or small Boats, which will carry four, five and six Persons; in like manner they hollow out Trees and use them for Boats: some of them are very large. * * * * The arms used by the Indians in War were formerly a Bow and Arrow with a Stone Axe and Mallet, but now they get from our People Guns, Swords, Iron Axes and Mallets. Their Money consists of certain little Bones made of the Shells of Cockles which are found on the Beach; a hole is made through the Middle of the little Bones; and they are strung

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