

F. G. Jackson records a similar way of eating with regard to the Samoyeds¹ and Prjévalski has the same of the Mongols.²

Useless to remark that the native Americans are just as big eaters as the Asiatics and seem endowed with as elastic stomachs.³ The disgusting habit of absorbing one's vermin is also prevalent among both branches of the human family.⁴

Another of the Dénés' delicacies I described at length, pages 92-93 of my "Notes". This consists of the salmon heads, which are left in the water—I could have added: or buried in the ground, for I have seen many of the pits where they would be left until they had reached an advanced stage of putrefaction. In this state they were boiled in bark vessels by means of hot stones introduced in the receptacle. "The stench they then exhale is simply asphyxiating", I wrote in this connection.

Now hear what an old author has to say of the culinary accomplishments of the Koriacks of Siberia: "In Spring and Summer they catch a large Quantity of Fish, and digging Holes in the Ground, which they line with the Bark of Birch [as do also the Carriers], they fill them with it and cover the Holes over with Earth. As soon as they think the Fish is rotten and tender, they take out some of it, pour Water upon it, and boil it with red-hot Pebbles, . . . and feed upon it as the greatest Delicacy in the World. This Mess stinks so abominably that the Rus-

¹ "The Great Frozen Land", p. 75.

² "Les Mongols mangent avec leurs doigts et enfoncent dans leur bouche d'énormes morceaux de viande, qu'ils coupent avec leur couteau au ras des lèvres" (*Mongolie et Pays des Tangoutes*, p. 40).

³ "The improvidence of these natives is equally astonishing as their ravenousness. They will consume nearly a week's provisions in one night and go hungry the remaining six days" (Bush, *op. cit.*, p. 230). See also Simpson, "An Overland Journey", vol. II, p. 309 of London edition. An Apache (Déné) woman is on record as having consumed in one meal all the rations she had received from the Government for one week (See Fourteenth Ann. Report Bureau of Ethnology, p. 287). Of the Kirghis of Siberia Mrs. Atkinson writes the following: "They are a peculiar race of people, being able to remain two, and sometimes three, days without eating, and then the quantity they can eat is enormous. I was told that a man can eat a sheep at once; on making the enquiry among the Kirghis, one of them offered to treat me with the sight if I would pay for it, but I declined witnessing the disgusting feat" ("Recollections of Tartar Steppes", p. 179). As to the Mongols, here is what Prjévalski writes of them: "La glotonnerie de cette race est extraordinaire: un individu consomme dix livres de viande dans une journée, et certains gastronomes font disparaître un mouton de taille moyenne dans le même espace de temps. En voyage, la ration de chaque chamelier est d'une cuisse; il est juste d'ajouter qu'il jeûne vingt-quatre heures si cela est nécessaire, mais quand il mange, il mange comme sept" (*Mongolie et Pays des Tangoutes*, p. 39).

⁴ Prjévalski, *op. cit.*, p. 38.