

NOTES TO VOL. XI

(*Figures in parentheses, following number of note, refer to pages of English text.*)

1 (p. 7).—*The grain that some call Turkish*: Indian corn, or maize (*Zea mays*, Linn.),—also known at that time as "Turkey wheat" or "Turkey corn" (from a vague notion that it originated in Turkey), and "Indian wheat" (*blé d'Inde*). The word "maize" is a form of the original Haytian name, *mahis* or *mahiz*. The early explorers found this grain under cultivation by the American aborigines, from Canada to Chile; and the Spaniards, soon after the discovery of America, introduced maize into Europe, whence it rapidly spread over the civilized world. There was long a controversy among scientific men over the question whether maize was of American or of Oriental origin: the former theory was advocated notably by Humboldt and De Candolle, and appears most probable.

Cartier describes the culture and use of this corn by the natives of Hochelaga, in his *Brief Récit* (Tross ed., 1863), fol. 23, 24. Champlain saw it everywhere along the North Atlantic coast; he is "the first who has left a record of its cultivation in New England, and of its preservation through the winter." He also noticed that the Indians made successive plantings thereof.—See his *Voyages* (Prince Soc.), vol. ii., pp. 64–66, 82, 121, 122. Cf. Smith's *Generall Historie of Virginia* (London, 1629; reprint, Richmond, Va., 1891), vol. i., p. 126.

On the preparation and use of maize as food, see vol. v. of this series, note 28; Champlain (*ut supra*), vol. ii., p. 123, and vol. iii., pp. 162–164; Smith's *Virginia* (*ut supra*), vol. i., p. 127; and Charlevoix's *Journ. Hist.*, pp. 331–333. It is estimated that a larger part of the human race is nourished by this grain than by any other except rice.

Columbus and Oviedo mention that the aborigines of the New World made from maize an intoxicating liquor, called *chicha*, which was also observed by Pickering in use in Peru (*Chron. Hist. of Plants*, pp. 610, 859). For further information regarding maize, see Salisbury's *History and Chemical Investigation of Maize* (Albany, 1849); Lundy's "Zea Maize," in *Phila. Numis. and Antiq. Soc. Proc.*, 25th anniv. (Phila., 1883), pp. 15–22; Carr's *Food of Amer. Inds.*, and *Mounds of Miss. Valley*.