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laid all the other Indians near us under Contribution. This Nation has a very heavy Language, and I find great Difficulty in learning it so as to speak and preach to them fluently: there are no Christians who understand the Language thoroughly; those who have lived here long can hold a Kind of Conversation, just sufficient to carry on Trade, but they do not understand the Idiom of the Language. I am making a vocabulary of the *Mahakuaa* Language, and when I am among them I ask them how Things are called; then, as they are very dumb, I cannot sometimes get an Explanation of what I want. Besides what I have just mentioned, one will tell me a word in the *Infinitive*, another in the *Indicative* Mood; one in the *first*, another in the *second Person*; one in the *Present*, another in the *Preterperfect* Tense. So I stand sometimes and look, but do not know how to put it down: and as they have their Declensions and Conjugations, so they have their *Increases* like the Greeks, and I am sometimes as if I was distracted and cannot tell what to do, and there is no Person to set me right; I must do all myself in Order to become an *Indian Grammarian*. When I first observed that they pronounced their Words so differently, I asked the Commissary of the Company what it meant, and he told me he did not know, but imagined they changed their Language every two or three Years; I told him it could never be that a whole Nation should so generally change their Language:—and though he has been connected with them these twenty years he can afford me no Assistance.

"The Indians in this Country are of much the same Stature as Dutchmen; some of them have very good Features, and their Bodies and Limbs are well proportioned; they all have black Eyes, but their Skin is tawny; in Summer they go naked—(almost); the Children and young Folks to 10, 12 and 14 Years of Age go mother-naked; in Winter they hang loosely about them a Deer's, or Bear's or Panther's Skin, or they take some Beaver and Otter Skins, or Wild-Cat, Raccoon's, Martin's, Mink's, Squirrel, or several Kinds of Skins, which are plenty in this Country and sew some of them upon others, until it is a square Piece, and that is then a Garment for them, or they buy of us Dutchmen two and a half Ells of Duffels, and that they hang loosely on them, just as it was torn off, without any sewing, and as they go away they look very much at themselves, and think they are very fine. They make themselves Stockings and Shoes of Deer Skin, or they take the Leaves of their Corn, and plat them together and use them for Shoes. The Women as well as the Men go naked about the head; the Women let their Hair grow very long and tie it, and let it hang down their Backs; some of the Men wear their Hair on one Side of the Head, and some on both Sides, and a long Lock of Hair hanging down: on the top of their Heads they have a Streak of Hair from the Forehead to the Neck about the Breadth of three Fingers, and this they shorten till it is about two or three Fingers long, and it stands right on End like Hog's Bristles; on both Sides of this Streak they cut the Hair short off, except the aforesaid Locks, and they also leave on the bare Places here and there small Locks, such as are in Sweeping-Brushes, and they are very fine. They likewise paint their Faces red, blue, &c., and then they look like the Devil himself. They grease their Heads with Bear's-grease, which they always carry with them for this purpose in a small Basket; they say they do it to make their Hair grow, and prevent their having Lice. When they travel they take with them some Maize, a Kettle, a Wooden Bowl and a Spoon: these they pack up and hang on their Backs, and when they are hungry they make a fire and cook—they can get Fire by rubbing Pieces of Wood very briskly against one another. They live in Common without Marriage, but if any of them have Wives the Marriage continues no longer than they think proper, and then they separate and each takes another Partner. * * * * *