

means of a piece of wood about a foot long, with a small groove in the middle, which receives the dart: at the bottom is a hole for the reception of one finger, which enables them to grasp the piece of wood much firmer, and to throw with greater force.

It is uncertain with what tools their wooden utensils, frames of canoes, &c. are made, the only one that we observed among them being a sort of stone adze, somewhat resembling those of Otaheite, and other islands of the Pacific Ocean. They have a great quantity of iron knives, some of which are rather curved, others straight, and some very small ones, fixed in longish handles, with the blades bent upwards. They have also knives of another sort, sometimes almost two feet in length, shaped in a great measure like a dagger, with a ridge towards the middle. They wear these in sheaths of skins, hung by a thong round their necks under their robes or frocks. It is probable that they use them only as weapons, and that their other knives are applied to different purposes.

The food that we saw them eat was the flesh of some animal, either roasted or broiled, and dried fish. Some of the former that was purchased had the appearance of bear's flesh. They likewise eat a larger sort of fern root, either baked or dressed in some other method. Some of us observed them eat freely of a substance, which we imagined was the interior part of the pine bark. Their drink, in all probability, is water; for in their canoes they brought snow in wooden vessels, which they swallowed by mouthfuls. Their manner of eating is decent and cleanly, for they constantly took care to remove any dirt that might adhere to their food; and though they would sometimes eat the raw fat of some sea animal, they did not fail to cut it carefully into mouthfuls.

Our knowledge of the animals of this part of the American continent is entirely derived from the skins that were brought by the natives for sale. These were principally of bears, common and pine martins, sea otters, seals, racoons, small crinies, foxes, and the whitish cat or lynx.

Besides these animals, there is here the white bear, of whose skins the natives brought several pieces, and some complete skins of cubs. There is also the wolverene, or quickhatch, whose skin has very bright colours; and a larger species of ermine than the common one, varied with brown, and having scarcely any black on their tails.

With respect to birds, we found here the halcyon, or great nighthawk, which had fine bright colours; the shag; the white-headed eagle; and the humming bird, which often flew about our ships while we lay at anchor. The water fowl seen by us were black sea pyes, with red bills; geese; a small sort of duck, and another sort with which none of us were acquainted.

The fish that were principally brought to us by the natives for sale, were torsk and halibut; and we caught some sculpins