

squirting it over their hands.¹ "On certain rare high days a slight ablution of the face and hands was performed by filling the mouth with water, squirting it out into the hands joined together, and then carrying it to the face", writes F. G. Jackson of the Samoyeds.² I have repeatedly seen an identical operation performed among the Tsilkotins, Carriers, Sékanais and Babines.

Then one of the national dishes proper to Asiatics and Dénés alike consists in nothing else than the half digested contents of the reindeer's stomach. Hearne describes it at length as regards the latter,³ and Bush is no less explicit when he writes of the natives of Siberia.⁴

Another delicacy much esteemed on both continents is the tripe of the hunter's victim. I have repeatedly seen them relished by the Dénés, and, in his remarkable work on the Tatars, the parents of the Yakuts, Abbé Huc shows that the former are not backward in realizing the economic excellence of that part of the animal, which amongst us is scarcely ever thought of when it is a question of human food.⁵

The same author goes on to declare that "tous les Mongols connaissent le nombre, le nom et la place des os qui entrent dans la charpente des animaux; aussi quand ils ont à dépecer un bœuf ou un mouton, ils ne fracturent jamais les ossements".⁶ This is to the letter true of the Déné hunters as well.

As to the very mode of eating meat, it is also identical on both continents. Bush says of the Tungus: "Each one taking a huge piece of venison put as much of it as he possibly could in his mouth, and then, by a dextrous up-stroke of his knife, shaved it off close to his lips, the edge barely grazing the end of his nose as it severed the meat. I was in constant dread of seeing one of their noses sliced off".⁷

Before I knew of Bush's work I had written of my own Indians: "The true aboriginal way of disposing of [meat] is to approach the roasting spit, bite into the morsel that is cooking, and cut off the mouthful with a knife. This eaten, the operation is continued, the native repeatedly biting into the piece of meat and cutting off the mouthful at the risk of carving into his own nose".⁸

¹ See Bergeron, *Relation des Voyages en Tartarie*.

² "The Great Frozen Land", p. 58; London, 1895.

³ "A Journey from Prince of Wales's Fort", pp. 317-18.

⁴ "Reindeer", etc., p. 344.

⁵ *Souvenirs d'un Voyage dans la Tartarie*, Vol. I, p. 360; Paris, 1853.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *ibid.*, p. 361.

⁷ "Reindeer", etc., p. 281.

⁸ "The Great Déné Race", vol. I, pp. 157-58 of reprint from *Anthropos*, Vienna.