

It is short and almost round, having two ranks of jaws at the sides, and before four great sharp teeth one by another, two above and two beneath: with these teeth he cutteth small trees and poles in sundry pieces, wherewith he buildeth his house. That which I say is an admirable and incredible thing. This creature lodgeth himself upon the brinks of lakes, and there he first maketh his couch with straw or other things fit to lie upon, as well for him as for his female; raiseth a vault with his wood, cut and prepared, which he covereth with turf, in such sort that no wind enters therein, so far as all is covered and shut up, except one hole which leadeth under the water, and by that way he goeth forth to walk where he listeth. And because the waters of the lakes do sometimes rise, he maketh a chamber above the lower dwelling, for to retire himself in, if in case any inundation should happen: in such sort, that some beavers cabin is above eight foot high, all made with wood, pyramid-wise, and daub'd with mud. Moreover it is held that being amphibious, as we have said, he must always participate with water, and that his tail be dipped in it; which is the cause why he lodgeth himself so near a lake. But being subtle he contenteth not himself with that which we have said, but hath moreover an issue into another place out of the lake, without any cabin, by which way he goeth on the land and beguileth the hunter. But our savages being aware of it, take order for the same and stopp his passage.

The beavers cabin or den.

How the beaver is taken.

When they will then take the beaver, they pierce through the ice of the frozen lake, about his cabin, then one of the savages thrusteth his arm into the hole, carrying the coming of the said beaver, whilst that another goeth upon this ice, striking with a staff upon it for to astonish him, and make him to return into his lodging. Then one must be nimble for to seize on his neck, for if one catch him by any part where he may bite, he will bite very sore. The flesh thereof is very good; almost as if it were mutton.

And as every nation hath commonly something peculiar that it bringeth forth, which is not so common with others; so anciently the realm of Pontus had the fame for the producing of beavers, as I learn it out of Virgil, where he saith,

—Virofaque Pontus castræd.

And after him, of Sidonie de Polignac bishop of Auvergne; in these verses;

—Fert Indus ebur, Chaldaus amomum,  
Assyrius gemmas, Ser velleræ, thura Sabæus,  
V OL. II.

Attis mel, Phœnix palmas, Lacedæmon olivum,  
Argos equos, Epirus equas, pecuaria Gallus,  
Arma Calybi, frumenta Libes, Campanus  
jaccbum,  
Aurum Lydius, Arabs guttam, Pancaia  
myrrham,  
Pontus castorea, blattam Tyrus, ara Corin-  
thius, &c.

Sidon. Apol. in Carm. 5.

But at this day, the land of Canada beareth the bell away for that respect, although that some of them are brought out of Muscovy, but they are not so good as ours.

Our savages have also made us to eat of beavers flesh, which was very good and tender, and like to beef: item, of leopards, resembling much the wild cat, and of a beast which they call *nibabes*, which hath his paws almost like to the ape's paws, by means whereof he climbeth easily upon the trees, yea he layeth his young ones there. He is of greyish hairs, and his head like to a fox; but he is so fat that it is almost incredible. Having described the principal game, I will not stand to speak of wolves (for they have some, and yet eat none of them) nor of lucerns, otters, coney, and others which I have mentioned in my Farewell to New France, whereto I refer the reader, and to the recital of Capt. James Quartier.

Nevertheless it is good to shew here, that our French cattle profiteth very well in those parts. We had hogs which have multiplied very much; and although they had a sty, they did lie abroad, even in the snow and during the frost. We had but one A wether, which proved very well, although he was not taken in by night; but was in the midst of our yard in winter time. Monf. de Poutrincourt made him twice to be shorn, and the wool of the second year, hath been esteemed in France better by two sous; or seven farthings English, in the pound than that of the first. We had no other household cattle, but hens and pigeons, which failed not to yield the accustomed tribute, and to multiply abundantly. The said Monf. de Poutrincourt took, coming out of the shell, small outards, which he did very well breed; and gave them to the king at his return. When the country is once stored with those creatures and others, they will encrease so much, that one shall not know what to do with them; like as in Peru, where are at this day, and long since, such quantity of oxen, kine, swine, horses and dogs, that they have no more owners, but do appertain to the first that do kill them: Being killed, they carry away the hides to traffic withal, and the carcases are left there; which I have many times