

another; one of partial clearing to discover whether or not we suppose the defence of the

embankments were the village. Perhaps the village. If so,

French influence, neighborhood of European

been far from to make them, on account of influence of two other conditions may for pottery ring trees was able, for it is water. Perhaps of springs in summer, but influenced by

and fortify a the primitive, copper more was therefore for who is well root of a tree, axes, so many other places on usually called handles. They for pole. This struck. The found either

and to be done, for houses, and were saved during but have been es served for outside of the dug along the up to form ground. It is or even four

parallel rows, those on one side of the embankment inclining towards those on the other, and crossing at the top where they were lashed to each other with pliable twigs and strips of tough bark. A platform of poles was laid to extend lengthwise, resting at the intersection of the palisades, and here it is said the defenders stood to pour water upon fires lighted by the besieging force to make a breach in the "wooden wall." Here also heaps of stones were piled, for use against the enemy at close quarters. In addition to the labor of erecting such a frame, the finishing touches must also have required much time and patience, for the palisades were covered to the height of six feet or more, with sheets of bark. As a whole, and considering the lack of good cutting tools, we cannot fail to be surprised at the amount of work the Hurons and other Indians accomplished, and the manner in which it was executed, although it would appear that in the art of fortification, the Hurons were excelled by their kindred the Iroquois.*

With regard to the extent and number of the aboriginal clearings in the Tobacco Nation's country, there has probably been some exaggeration. One writer has given it as his opinion that almost every square yard of land in that district, shows signs of a former clearance. It would be interesting to know what these signs were that persisted in showing themselves, after a lapse of two hundred years, now two hundred and forty. A farmer on whose property there is an old village site, told me that the trees growing upon it had smoother bark than those in the surrounding woods. I failed to observe the difference, but allowing it to be as represented, it proves too much, for even if the richer soil produced a finer bark, the coarser covering of the surrounding trees yielded no evidence of such an advantage. It is chimerical after so long a time, to look for surface indications of this kind, where the upturned roots of trees from three to four feet in diameter, sometimes disclose flakes of flint, broken pipes and fragments of pottery.

Still it is plain that the agricultural operations of the Tionnontates were comparatively extensive, for the density of the population made game scarce, and their chief food consisted of maize or Indian corn, raw or roasted, or boiled with flesh and fish. This grain they stored in caches or pits. The only evidence now existing of the use of corn are the charred cobs and grains found among the ashes of old dwellings.

Our knowledge of aboriginal vegetable diet is not very extensive, but it would appear that in addition to maize, they cultivated sunflowers, pumpkins and beans, all of which were probably introduced from southern sources. Wild fruits, especially plums, were moderately plentiful about the Georgian Bay, and the district is at the present time noted for its cultivated varieties of this fruit. Cherries, gooseberries, raspberries and strawberries, though not abundant were no doubt added to their scanty list of tid-bits, and beech-nuts could sometimes be gathered in considerable quantities. They no doubt made use of maple sap during early spring, but their traditional manufacture of sugar by boiling is a little dubious.

From a coarse hemp the women twisted strong cord or twine, which was used chiefly in making nets and constructing wigwams. From coarse grasses and sedges they wove mats and articles of clothing. Baskets were made in the same way and from similar material. In these were formed at least a few of the clay vessels, fragments of which are so plentifully found.

There is perhaps no single article of aboriginal manufacture with which the popular imagination so intimately associates the Indian, as the birch-bark

* "The forts of the Iroquois were stronger and more elaborate than those of the Hurons; and to this day, large districts in New York are marked with frequent remains of their ditches and embankments." Parkman, *Jesuits in North America*, Intro. p. xxix.