

In the winter of 1871, while hunting with a party of Indians from the Berthold village, in the bad-lands of the Little Missouri, I spent three nights in a lodge of exactly the same kind, which was quite old, and had often served as the temporary shelter of Hidatsa hunting-parties. It stood in an excellent but dangerous game-region, some four or five days journey from Fort Berthold, and was built for the convenience of parties composed only of men who found it advisable to visit that neighborhood without tents or other incumbrances. There are probably other lodges of this kind in the country around Berthold, but I have seen only this one.

§ 4. DRYING-FRAMES, corn-scaffolds, or, as some call them, "gridirons", stand in various parts of the village, and are quite numerous. They must resemble much the drying-frames of the agricultural tribes of the far east and south, if we are to judge by the descriptions given. They seem to differ in shape from those of the Omahas—of which the writer has seen photographs, but not the originals—by having the supporting-posts longer, and rising above the floor. They are made by setting in the ground some six or eight saplings, which rise to the height of twelve or fifteen feet. To these, at the height of seven or eight feet, cross-pieces are lashed; and on the latter a floor of poles or willow hurdles is laid; smaller poles are lashed to the tops of the upright supports. Corn and other vegetables, meat, robes, etc., are dried on these frames; and the labor of preparing and cleaning corn is done on the hurdle-floor, or on the ground underneath.

§ 5. CACHES.—The numerous *caches*, or pits, for storing grain, are noteworthy objects in the village. In summer, when they are not in use, they are often left open, or are carelessly covered, and may entrap the unwary stroller. When these Indians have harvested their crops, and before they start on their winter-hunt, they dig their *caches*, or clear out those dug in previous years. A *cache* is a cellar, usually round, with a small opening above, barely large enough to allow a person to descend; when finished, it looks much like an ordinary round cistern. Reserving a small portion of corn, dried squash, etc., for winter use, they deposit the remainder in these subterranean store-