

When they find Scarcity of Game they remove a League or Two farther; and thus they traverse through these woody Countries and Bogs, scarce missing one Day, Winter or Summer, fair or foul, in the greatest Storms of Snow, but what they are employed in some kind of Chace. The smaller Game got by Traps or Snares, are generally the Employment of the Women and Children; such as the Martens, Squirrels, Cats, Ermines, &c. The Elks, Stags, Rein-deer, Bears, Tygers, wild Beeves, Wolves, Foxes, Beavers, Otters, Corcajeu, &c. are the Employment of the Men. The Indians when they kill any Game for Food, leave it where they kill it, and send their Wives next Day to carry it home. They go home in a direct Line, never missing their Way, by Observations they make of the Course they take upon their going out, and so judge upon what Point their Huts are; and can thus direct themselves upon any Point of the Compass. The Trees all bend towards the South, and the Branches on that Side are larger and stronger than on the North Side; as also the Moss upon the Trees. To let their Wives know how to come at the killed Game, they from Place to Place break off Branches, and lay them in the Road, pointing them the Way they should go, and sometimes Moss; so that they never miss finding it.

In Winter, when they go abroad, which they must do in all Weathers, to hunt and shoot for their daily Food, before they dress, they rub themselves all over with Bears Grease or Oil of Beavers, which does not freeze; and also rub all the Fur of their Beaver Coats, and then put them on: They have also a kind of Boots, or Stockings, of Beaver's Skin, well oiled, with the Fur inwards; and above them they have an oiled Skin laced about their Feet, which keeps out the Cold and also Water, when there is no Ice or Snow; and by this means they never freeze, nor suffer any thing by Cold. In Summer also, when they go naked, they rub themselves with these Oils or Grease; and expose themselves to the Sun, without being scorched; their Skins always being kept soft and supple by it: Nor do any Flies, Bugs, or Musketoes, or any noxious Insect, ever molest them. When they want to get rid of it, they go into the Water, and rub themselves all over with Mud or Clay, and let it dry upon them, and then rub it off; but whenever they are free from the Oil, the Flies and Musketoes immediately attack them, and oblige them again to anoint themselves.

The Indians make no use of Honey; he saw no Bees there but the wild Humble Bee; but they are so much afraid of being stung with them, they going naked in Summer, that they avoid them as much as they can: Nor did he see any of the Maple they use in *Canada* to make Sugar of, but only the Birch, whose Juice they use for the same Purpose, boiling it until it is black and dry, and then using it with their Meat. They use no Milk from the Time they are weaned, and they all hate to taste Cheese, having taken up an Opinion, that it is made of dead Men's Fat. They love Prunes and Raisins, and will give a Beaver-skin for Twelve of them to carry to their Children; and also for a Trump, or Jew's Harp. He says the Women have all fine Voices, but have never heard any musical Instrument. They are very fond of all Kinds of Pictures, or Prints; giving a Beaver for the least Print: And all Toys are like Jewels to them.

When he got to the Natives Southward of *Pachegoia*, he had about 30 Cowries left, and a few small Bells, less than Hawks Bells: When he shewed one of them, they gave him a Beaver-skin for One; and they were so fond, that some gave him Two Skins, or Three Marten-skins for One, to give their Wives, to make them fine. The Martens they take in Traps; for if they shot them, their Skins would be spoiled; They have generally Five or Six at a Litter.

He says, the Natives are so discouraged in their Trade with the Company, that no Peltry is worth the Carriage; and the finest Furs are sold for very little. When they came to the Factory in June 1742, the Prices they took for the *European* Goods were much higher than the settled Prices fixed by the Company; which the Governors fix so, to shew the Company, how zealous they are to improve their Trade, and sell their Goods to Advantage. He says, they gave but a Pound of Gunpowder for 4 Beavers, a Fathom of Tobacco for 7 Beavers, a Pound of Shot for 1, an Ell of coarse Cloth for 15, a Blanket for 12, 2 Fish-hooks, or 3 Flint, for 1, a Gun for 25, a Pistol for 10, a common Hat with white Lace 7, an Axe 4, a Bill-hook 1, a Gallon of Brandy 4, a chequer'd Shirt 7; all which are sold at a monstrous Profit, even to 2000 per Cent. Notwithstanding this Discouragement, the two Fleets which went down with him, and parted at the *Great Fork*, carried down 200 Packs, of 100 each, 20,000 Beavers; and the other Indians who arrived that Year, he computed carried down 300 Packs, of 100 each, 30,000, in all 50,000 Beavers, and above 9,000 Martens.

The Furs there are much more valuable than the Furs upon the *Canada* Lakes, sold at *New York*; for these will give Five or Six Shillings per Pound, when the others sell at Three Shillings and Sixpence. He says, that if a Fort was built at the *Great Fork*, 60 Leagues above *York Fort*, and a Factory with *European* Goods were fixed there, and a reasonable Price was put upon *European* Goods; that the Trade would be wonderfully increased: For the Natives from the Southward of *Pachegoia* could make, at least, Two Returns in a Summer; and those at greater Distances could make One, who can't now come at all; and above double the Number would be employed in Hunting, and many more Skins would be brought to Market, that they can't now afford to bring for the Expence and low Price given for them. The Stream is so gentle from the *Fork* to *York Fort*, on either Branch, that large Vessels and Shallops may be built there, and carry down bulky Goods, and also return again against the Stream: And the Climate is good, and fit to produce Grain, Pulse, &c. and very good Grass and Hay for Horses and Cattle. And if afterwards any Settlements were made upon *Pachegoia*, and Vessels built to navigate that Lake, which is not more Northerly than Lat. 52 Degrees; the Trade would be still vastly more enlarged and improved, and spread the Trade not only up the Rivers and Lakes as far as the *Lake Du Bois*, and *De Puis*, but also among the *Astinbouels*, and Nations beyond them; and the Nation *de Vieux Hommes*, who are 200 Leagues Westward of *Pachegoia*. He says, the Nations who go up that River with Presents, to confirm the Peace with them, are Three Months in going up; and say, they live beyond a Range of Mountains beyond the *Astinbouels*; and that beyond them are Nations who have not the Use of Fire Arms; by which means, many of them are made Slaves by them, and are sold to the *Astinbouels*, *Panis Blanc*, and *Cristinaux*. He saw several of them, who all wanted a Joint of their little Finger, which they said, was cut off soon after they were born; but gave no Reason for it.

Whilst he was at *York Fort* he got acquainted with an old Indian, who lived at some Distance from *Nelson River*, to the Westward, being one of those they call the *Home Indians*, who had about 15 Years ago, gone at the Head of Thirty Warriors, to make War against the *Attimspiquois*, *Tete Plat*; or *Plascotez de Chiens*, a Nation living Northward on the Western Ocean of *America*: He was the only one who returned, all the rest being either killed, or perished through Fatigue, or want of Food, upon their Return. When they went, they carried their whole Families with them, and hunted and fished from Place to Place for Two Winters;