

Saxon pirates do use, who with those instruments are swift in fight. *Siloneus de Polignac*, speaking of the same Saxons saith,

—*Cui pelle salam fulcare Britannum
Ludus, Et assuto glaucum mare findere
lembo.*

The savages of the north, towards Labrador, have certain small canoes of thirteen or fourteen foot long, and two foot broad, made of this fashion, all covered with leather, yea, over-head, and there is but one hole in the midst, where the man putteth himself on his knees, having half his body out, so that he cannot perish, furnishing his vessels with victuals before he cometh in it. I dare believe, that the fables of the syrens, or mermaidens, come from that, the dunces esteeming that they were fish, half men or women, as they have feigned centaurs by seeing men on horseback.

The original of the syren fables.

Canoes of hollowed trees.

The *Armouchiquois*, *Virginians*, *Floridians*, and *Brazilians*, do make another fashion of canoes, for having neither hatchets nor knives, except some copper ones, they burn a great tree very strait at the foot, and fell it down; then they take such length as they will, and use to burn it instead of sawing it, scraping the burnt part of the tree with stones: and for the hollowing of the vessel, they do continue the same. In one of those boats six men will sail with some stuff, and will make long voyages: but these kind of canoes are heavier than the others.

They also make long voyages by land as well as by sea, and they will undertake (a thing incredible) to go 20 or 30, yea, 40 leagues through the woods, without meeting with any path or inn, and without carrying any victuals but tobacco, and a tinder box, with their bow in hand, and their quiver at their backs; and we in *France* are much troubled when we have never so little lost our way in some great forest. If they be pressed with thirst, they have the skill to suck the trees, from whence do trickle down a sweet and very pleasant liquor, as myself have tried it sometimes.

They are commonly birch-trees.

Pottery of catch.

In the countries where they use tillage, as in that of the *Armouchiquois*, and farther off, the men do make an infinite number of earthen-pots, like in fashion to night-caps, in which they seeth their meats, flesh, fish, beans, corn, pumpions, &c. Our *Souriquois* did so anciently, and did till the ground; but since that *Frenchmen* do bring unto them kettles, beans, peas, bisket and other food, they are become slothful, and make no more account of those exercises. But as for the *Armouchiquois* which have yet no commerce with us, and them that are further

off, they till the ground, do fatten it with shells of fish, they have their families distinct, and their plots of ground about them; contrary to the ancient *Germans* which (as *Cæsar* saith) had not any field proper, neither did they dwell above a year in one place, having almost no other living than milk, flesh, and cheese, thinking it too tedious a thing for them to tarry a whole year of purpose for to reap a harvest. Which is also the humour of our *Souriquois* and *Canadians*, who, and all others (as we must needs confess) are nothing laborious but in hunting. For, the manuring of the ground, the women do take the greatest pains in it, who amongst them do not command at home, and do not make their husbands to go to the market, as they do in many provinces in these our parts, and especially in the country of Jealousy.

As for the tillage of the *Floridians*, The *Floridians* hear what *Laudonniere* saith of it; they sow their corn twice a year, that is to say, in *March* and in *June*, and all in one and the self-same land. The said mill from the time that it is sowed until it be ready to be reaped, is not above three months in the ground: The six other months they suffer the ground to rest. They also gather fair pumpions and very good beans, they do not dung their land; only when they will sow, they set the weeds on fire which are grown during the six months, and burn them all. They till their land with an instrument of wood, which is made like to a broad pickaxe, wherewith they dig their vines in *France*; they put two grains of mill together. When the lands are to be sowed, the king commandeth one of his men to call his subjects together every day to come to labour, during the which, the king causeth great store of that drink whereof we have spoken to be made. In the season that the corn is gathered, it is all carried into the common store-house, where it is distributed to every one according to his quality. They sow but so much as they think will serve them for six months, and that very hardly; for during the winter they retire themselves three or four months of the year into the woods; where they make little houses of palm leaves, to lodge themselves in, and there do live of acorns, of fish which they take, of oysters, or stags, turkey-hens and other beasts that they take.

Their living during the winter.

And seeing they have towns and houses, or cabins, I may yet well put this among their exercises. As for the towns, they be multitudes of cabins, made somewhat pyramid wise; others in form of a cottage, others like garden bowers, compassed as it were with high pales of trees joined one near the other, even as I have

set