

the shores of Acadia he found that Indian axes and other implements were all of stone, and he speaks of the immense labor and difficulty they encountered in felling trees with such rude implements. Nevertheless they managed to hack down trees with their stone axes, and after burning the branches and trunk, planted their corn among the stumps, and in the course of time took out the roots. The corn they raised they either dried in the milk in the manner described by John Gyles in his narrative,\* or allowed it to ripen, when they shelled it from the ear and pounded it in wooden or stone mortars, and reduced it to meal. Out of this meal they made thin broad cakes which they cooked before the fire. Speaking of this fact in one of his lectures on early New Brunswick history, the late Moses Perley remarked: "and here, ladies and gentlemen, we have the origin of that very good thing to all true 'blue noses,' an Indian Johnny Cake!"

Parkman in one of his works speaks of the Algonquins as a people who paid no attention to the cultivation of the soil. This statement is manifestly a mistake in the case of the Maliseets who are a tribe of the Algonquin race.

The site of old Fort Medoctec lies on the west bank of the St. John river about eight miles below the town of Woodstock on land now owned by A. R. Hay. The reader will gain a better idea of the position of the fort and its surroundings by an examination of the plan on the next page.†

Unfortunately for the historical student the site has been so well cultivated by thrifty farmers that there now remains little to indicate the outlines of the fortifications. It is impossible to determine with absolute certainty the exact position of the stockade, or of the large wigwam‡ or Council Chamber and other features commonly found in Indian towns of that period. The only place where the old breast-work is now visible is along the south and east sides of the burial ground, where it is about two feet high, but Mr. Wilmot Hay says that when his father purchased the property there was an embankment four or five

\* "To dry corn when in the milk, they gather it in large kettles and boil it on the ears till it is pretty hard, then shell it from the cob with clam shells, and dry it on bark in the sun. When it is thoroughly dry, a kernel is no bigger than a pea and would keep years, and when it is boiled again it swells as large as when on the ear and tastes incomparably sweeter than other corn. When we had gathered our corn and dried it in the way already described, we put some of it into Indian barns, that is into holes in the ground, lined and covered with bark and then with earth. The rest we carried up the river upon our next winter's hunting."—*Gyles' Narrative*.

† This plan is based upon a careful personal inspection of the place made in company with the brothers Messrs. A. R. and Wilmot Hay. Notes and sketches kindly placed at the writer's disposal by Dr. W. F. Ganong, who made a careful examination of the site some years ago, have also been taken into account. The observations and traditions of the older settlers of the vicinity have received due consideration, and the oldest plans in the Crown Land Office at Fredericton have been consulted.

‡ John Gyles mentions this large wigwam in his narrative as the scene of the severest torture he endured during his captivity.