

where the River is divided by a Rock, upon which a convenient Fort might be built, which might be cut off by bringing the Water around it. It is about 60 Leagues from this Fork to the Factory: They staid here Eight Days to hunt for Provisions; there not being plenty of Game upon the East Branch, which is the Way he went down, it being the shortest Passage; at the same time another Fleet of 100 Canoes went down the Western Branch; it was the 29th of June, N. S. when he got to the Factory; and the other Party who went down the other Branch, were Three Weeks later. From this Fork to within Four or Five Leagues of the Fort, the Banks are high, and of red Earth, from which he calls the River from the Fork, the River *de Terre rouge*; and from that Place they descend gradually to the Sea, until they are near a Water Level; the Current was very easy from the Fork to the Fort, the Island to Westward of their Channel was full of Wood, but the Country above and beyond the other Bank was not so woody. They were about Three Weeks in going from the Fork to the Factory; for the Indians told him, notwithstanding it was so warm and pleasant in passing down the River, and the Trees fully blown, that when they would come near the Sea, they would find it very cold, with Snow and Ice in the River, and the Trees but just beginning to bud; and accordingly they delayed going down so soon as they otherwise might, or they could have gone down in Four or Five Days: This he could not easily believe, considering how forward the Spring was there, and the Weather so warm; but when he came within Four or Five Leagues of the Fort, where the Land began to slope towards the Sea, he then found a great deal of Ice in the River, and the Trees but just budding; and when he got to the Fort, the Snow fell in one Night Three or Four Inches thick; but all above, along the River, the Climate and Season was warm, and the Trees all in high Bloom.

Two Days after he got to Fort Fort, one of the *Monsoni Indians* arrived there with his Wife; he had Four Packs of Beavers of 40 each; he told him he came by the River and Lake *Du Pique*; and was Two Years hunting from thence before he got to the Fort; that he had about Sixty Land Carriages, passing from Lake to Lake, having no Rivers running the Course he came, except one which he passed down for Two Days; he came to one very great Lake, in which he could discover no Land on either Side; but passed along it, from Island to Island, which took him up a considerable time.

The Indians being obliged to go ashore every Day to hunt for Provisions, delays them very much in their Voyages; for their Canoes are so small, holding only Two Men and a Pack of 100 Beavers Skins, that they can't carry Provisions with them for any Time; if they had larger Canoes, they could make their Voyages shorter, and carry many more Beavers to Market, at least Four times as many, besides other Skins of Value, which are too heavy for their present Canoes: This, and the high Price set upon the *European Goods* by the Company in Exchange, discourages the Natives so much, that if it were not that they are under a Necessity of having Guns, Powder and Shot, Hatchets, and other Iron Tools for their Hunting, and Tobacco, Brandy, and some Paint for Luxury, they would not go down to the Factory with what they now carry: At present they leave great Numbers of Furs and Skins behind them. A good Hunter among the Indians can kill 600 Beavers in a Season, and can carry down but 100; the rest he uses at home, or hangs them upon Branches of Trees, upon the Death of their Children, as an Offering to them; or use them for Bedding and Coverings: They sometimes burn off the Fur, and roast the Beavers

like Pigs, upon any Entertainments: and they often let them rot, having no further Use of them. The Beavers, he says, are of Three Colours; the Brown reddish Colour, the Black, and the White: The first is the cheapest: The Black is most valued by the Company, and in *England*: The White, though most valued in *Canada*, giving 18 Shillings, when others give Five or Six Shillings, is blown upon by the Company's Factors at the Bay, they not allowing so much for these as for the others; and therefore the Indians use them at home, or burn off the Hair, when they roast the Beavers like Pigs, at an Entertainment when they feast together: He says, these Skins are extremely white, and have a fine Lustre, no Snow being whiter, and have a fine long Fur or Hair; he has seen 15 taken of that Colour out of one Lodge, or Pond. The Beavers have Three Enemies, Min, Otters, and the Carcajon, or Queequehatch; which prey upon them, when they take them at an Advantage; the last is as large as a very great Dog; it has a short Tail like a Deer or Hare, and has a good Fur, valued at a Beaver and half in Exchange. The Beaver's chiefest Food is, the Poplar, or Tremble; but they also eat Sallows, Alders, and most other Trees not having a resinous Juice; the middle Bark is their Food: In May when the Wood is not plenty, they live upon a large Root, which grows in the Marshes, a Fathom long, and as thick as a Man's Leg, the French call it *Volet*; but the Beavers are not so good Food as when they feed upon Trees. They will cut down Trees above Two Fathoms in Girth with their Teeth; and one of them observes when it is ready to fall, and gives a great Cry, and runs the contrary Way, to give Notice to the rest to get out of the Way; they then cut off all the Top Twigs, and smaller Branches, Two or Three Fathoms in Length, and draw them to their Houses, which they have built in their Ponds, after having raised or repaired their Pond-head, and made it staunch, and thrust one End into the Clay or Mud, that they may lie under Water all the Winter, to preserve the Bark green and tender, for their Winter Provisions; after cutting off the small Branches, they cut and carry away the larger, until they come to the Bole of the Tree. The Beavers are delicious Food; but the Tongue and Tail the most delicious Parts of the whole: They are very fat from November, until the End of March; they have their Young in the Beginning of Summer; at which Time the Females are lean by suckling their Young; and the Males are lean the whole Summer, when they are making or repairing their Ponds and Houses, and cutting down and providing Timber and Branches for their Winter Store. They breed once in a Year, and have from Ten to Fifteen at a Litter, which grow up in one Season; so that they multiply very fast, and if they can empty a Pond, and take the whole Lodge they generally leave a Pair to breed, so that they are fully stocked again in Two or Three Years.

The *Loup Cervier*, or Lynx, is of the Cat kind, but as large as a great Dog; it preys upon all the Beasts it can conquer, as does the Tyger, which is the only Beast in that Country that won't fly from a Man.

The *American Oxen* or Bœves, have a large Burich upon their Backs, which is by far the most delicious Part of them for Food, it being all as sweet as Marrow; juicy and rich, and weighs several Pounds.

The Indians West of the Bay, living an errant Life, can have no Benefit, by tame Fowl or Cattle; they seldom stay above a Fortnight in a Place, unless they find Plenty of Game. When they remove, after having built their Hut, they disperse to get Game for their Food; and meet again at Night, after having killed enough to maintain them for that Day; they don't go above a League or Two from their Hut.

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