

Their food, and beverage. Their food is beef, venison, bear's and dog's flesh, with every sort of aquatic birds, and fish without exception. They either roast their meat on a wooden spit, or broil it, and they have maize served up at all their meals, differently prepared; or in lieu of it potatoes. They have no set hours for dining, except at public entertainments, when they all sit down together, and in token of unanimity eat out of the same dish, the women and children excepted, who have their respective shares given to themselves: at other times, they eat or drink, according as they find they have appetite. They are afraid of made dishes, and the *French* have never been able, either by example or reasoning, to persuade them to their soups, or ragouts, they not knowing what to make of the ingredients. They will drink nothing but water, or brandy, the clearness of these liquours determine their goodness; for if it be clear, they do not think it can possibly be sophisticated.

Their fasting. When they want to make intercession with heaven, for any particular benefit, they make interest with one of their elders reputed for sanctity among them, to intercede for them. He does it by fasting nine days, during which time he abtains entirely from venery and from all manner of food till sun set, when a mess of gruel without salt, and a draught of water is brought for his refreshment.

Respect to the grand chief. Besides the obedience and profound respect paid by the *Natchez*, to the grand chief, they are so strongly attached to him; that when his nearest relations die, not only all those who are in his train, but numbers of others, sacrifice themselves to the manes, to have the honour of attending him or her, in the world to come, and hence comes it, that this nation is not near so populous as it might otherwise be.

This nation destroyed by the French. In the year 1730, they were entirely cut off by the *French*, on account of their having joined in some schemes intended for their destruction, so that at present scarcely any thing remains of this once celebrated nation, but the name. Most authors who treat of this vast tract, observe that the best way of keeping peace with the different people, is to keep them at such a distance, as may impress them with awe and veneration; but this impression vanishes if you treat them with too much familiarity, verifying the proverb: "that familiarity breeds contempt."

Commercial advantages to be drawn from hence. *France* draws considerable advantages from the furs of *Louisiana*, and in our hands they might be greatly improved. Large profits might also be drawn from the hides and fat of their oxen, for which alone the different nations kill them. The fruit of the wax-tree, is also a commodity worth dealing in: as are the various kinds of wood for house-building, ship-building and ornament; and for the completing a naval force here is plenty of hemp, and excellent iron.

The soil seems admirably adapted to the bearing of salt petre; and vast quantities of silk might be produced, as the worms thrive here well. Saffron, salafra, the copal balm, and various other kinds of useful druggs are the produce of these climates, and always sure of a ready market in *Europe*.

A conclusive opinion of the country. To give a brief character of *Louisiana*, we may venture to affirm that it abounds in grain, cattle, and rich commodities, which the many streams watering the country, and falling into the great river *Mississipi* render still more valuable; and no part of the world seems more happily adapted to second the operations, and improve the glory of a maritime power, than this province of *America*.

The End of the Account of LOUISIANA.