

they sew with the roots of trees, and work in upon the lids and sides porcupine quills, dyed various colours; these boxes are very neat and curious.

As they are great hunters they get many valuable furs, which they exchange for blue and scarlet cloth, checks, &c. also for rum, and other spirituous liquors, to these they have become much addicted, and to which the great decrease amongst them is principally owing: They frequently drink to intoxication, when many of them are drowned, or perish with cold by laying on the damp ground.

The English, at such places as the Indians frequent, sell their goods to them at very extravagant prices; we have seen the Indians purchase scarlet cloth at the rate of forty shillings per yard, which has not cost fifteen in England; hats at five dollars each, that have not cost above one dollar; checks for two shillings, that has not cost above tenpence or a shilling; and other articles equally dear.

The Indians in those parts seem to cleave much to the French, and have a French Priest amongst them, who making his religion subservient to his interest, and a cloak for the most unrighteous practices, defrauds these poor credulous people of their property, by teaching them to confess their sins unto him, at the same time making them believe that he cannot give them absolution unless they present him with a certain number of furs. Some of them speak the English language tolerably well. When intoxicated with liquor they are rather quarrellsome, but are soon appeased by speaking to them in harsh terms.

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