

advantages. The hunting in the vicinity was excellent; the rivers abounded with salmon, sturgeon, bass, trout and other fish, and the intervals and islands were admirably adapted to the growth of Indian corn.

The Medoctec village is referred to by several of the early French writers; for example, Cadillac, in 1693, says, "The Maliseets are well shaped and tolerably warlike; they attend to the cultivation of the soil and grow the most beautiful Indian corn; their fort is at Medoctek."

Champlain's narrative suffices to show that corn was cultivated three centuries ago in very much the same manner as now. We quote his description:—

"In the place of ploughs they use an instrument of very hard wood shaped like a spade. We saw their Indian corn which they raise in gardens. Planting three or four kernels in one place, they then heap up a quantity of earth, then three feet distant they plant as much more and thus in succession. With this they put in each hill three or four Brazilian beans; when they grow up they interlace with the corn which reaches to the height of from five to six feet, and they keep the ground very free from weeds. We saw many squashes, pumpkins and tobacco which they likewise cultivate. They plant their corn in May and gather it in September.

The squashes, pumpkins and tobacco, it need scarcely be said were like the corn, indigenous to America, although brought from more southern latitudes. There is a curious Indian tradition that the crow brought them a grain of corn in one ear and in the other an Indian bean from the field of their god *Kautantowit*, in the south west land. The Indian tobacco was a smaller and more hardy species than the *Nicotiana tabacum* that has since become so popular with their white brothers; Jacques Cartier describes it as early as 1535, and we give his description in the quaint language of Hakluyt's translation:—

"There groweth also a certain kind of herbe, whereof in sommer they make a greate provision for all the yeere. First they cause it to be dried in the sunne, then weare it about their neckes wrapped in a little beast's skinne made like a little bagge, with a hollow peece of stone or wood like a pipe or coronet. Then when they please they make poulder of it and then put it in one of the ends of the said coronet or pipe and laying a cole of fire upon it, at the other end sucke so long, that they fill their bodies full of smoke till that it commeth out of their mouth and nostrils even as out of the Tonnel of a chimney. They say that this doth keepe them warme and in health: they never goe without some of it about them."

The fertile intervals at the Meductic village were doubtless cleared of trees and cultivated at a very early period. When Champlain visited