

feast of dog meat is the greatest distinction that can be offered to a stranger by any of the Indian nations east of the Rocky Mountains. That this is not the case among some of the nations west of those mountains, appears from the fact that Lewis and Clarke were called, in derision, by the Indians of the Columbia, Dog Eaters.

In the Dacota's treatment of his dogs, during life and after death, we observe one of those strange inconsistencies which so frequently prevail in the character of man, whether civilized or savage. While living, the dog is a beast of burden, and as such exposed to undergo much fatigue and ill-treatment; it is at the same time a most valuable animal. The traders, who have imitated the Indians in their use of the dog, speak of it as almost indispensable to them. Mr. Jeffries, one of the partners of the Columbia Fur Company, informed us, that he had the preceding winter transported in a log cart one thousand pounds weight of goods, with the assistance of six, and rarely eight, dogs, and that he travelled from Lake Travers to the Mandan villages in eleven days. On a long journey, the allowance of load is one hundred pounds per dog. For winter travelling, in a country so frequently covered with snow, the dog is the most convenient beast of burden, as it may be fed either on dried meat, or on the fresh meat which is occasionally procured. In travelling on the snow with dog trains, it is usual for a man to walk ahead of the dogs, with snow shoes, in order to trample down the snow, in which otherwise they would sink. We learn from Mr. Back's notes,* that the feet of the dogs are sometimes very much injured, and that in one instance, where they were perfectly raw, he attempted to tie shoes on them, which did not

* Franklin's Journey to the shores of the Polar Sea, at sup. p. 251.