

made of poles, and covered with bark, but in some instances they erected dwellings of a more permanent character, and surrounded with poles, so as to form a sort of fort or stockade. There were several structures of this description on the St. John in early times; one at Aukpayne, another at Medoctec, and a third at Madawaska. Denys speaks of one which the Chief of Richibucto had erected on the shore, and in which he describes him as receiving strangers sitting on the ground, looking like an ape with a pipe in his mouth, and preserving his dignity by being very taciturn and getting drunk only in private.

The Indians cooked their meat by broiling it on live coals, or roasting it on a sort of spit in front of the fire. But soup was their favorite delicacy: they boiled it in a capacious wooden cauldron made out of the butt of a large tree and hollowed out by fire. As such a vessel was not easily made, they frequently regulated their camping ground in some measure by the conveniences for establishing such a soup-kettle. The soup was boiled by dropping red hot stones into the cauldron, which when cooled, were immediately replaced by others, hot from the fire, until the meat was cooked. The soup thus made was their great drink, for Denys says "they drank as little water then as now;" and he adds, "thus they dined without care or salt or pepper, and quaffing deep draughts of good fat soup, lived long, and multiplied and were happy."

Yet, although at certain seasons they luxuriated in abundance of food, at times they were subject to the greatest privations, and on the verge of starvation. Then, no sort of food came amiss to them; reptiles, dogs, and animals of all sorts were eagerly sought after and greedily devoured: roots* of various kinds were in great demand, and sometimes they were forced to boil over the bones of their former feasts to appease their hunger. Wild grapes also it appears formed a portion of the food of the St. John Indians.†

* Mrs. Rowlandson, who was captured during King Philip's war, says, "their chief and commonest food was ground nuts. They eat also nuts and acorns, artichokes and lily roots and ground beans. They would pick up old bones and cut them in pieces at the joints, scald them over the fire to make the vermin come out, boil them, and then drink the liquor."

† See narrative of John Gyles' captivity. He was taken by the Indians when the Fort at Pemaquid was captured in 1689, and was a captive on the St. John river nine years,—six with the Indians at Medoctec, and three with Lewis d Amours Sieur des Chauffours at Jemseg. The latter treated him very kindly and finally gave him his liberty.