

June.
1747.

are plac'd Side by Side as high as is the Side of the Canoe, from one End to the other: The upmost Edge or Gunnel, is sewed to a Piece of Wood about an Inch thick, which gives the external Bend to the Canoe; and there are cross Bars, which strengthen the whole: There is no Difference between the Head and Stern, the two Ends being alike. They have no Rudder, but make use of Paddles, which are very light and made generally of Maple, it being a tuff Wood, but sometimes of Cedar, and of other Woods. They are about five Feet long, the Length of the Blade is about a Foot and half, and the Breadth five or six Inches.

The *Indians* are very dexterous in the Use of these Paddles, which they hold with both Hands, they paddle and steer at the same Time, shifting these Paddles from Side to Side with great Dexterity. It requires particular Care to get into the Canoes, and to keep them steady, when in them, for fear of overturning, and not to hinder the Canoes Way when going. They are also easily broke by accidentally striking on Gravel or Stones, which will make Holes and let the Water in, therefore they always go provided with Materials for repairing upon these Accidents. They paddle mostly upon their Knees, especially in strong Streams, but in quiet Water setting. In Some of the larger Canoes they carry Sail, but in the lesser do not attempt it; and when they do sail, it is only when there are very light Gales. They always