

Brinton fixes the Indian corn belt as extending from Chili to the fiftieth parallel of north latitude. De Soto found all of the tribes he visited, from Florida to Western Arkansas, cultivating corn and vegetables. The reports of early voyagers indicate the prevalence of the same custom among the Indians, along the Atlantic from Maine to Florida.

It has been shown that the early colonists of America depended, to a considerable extent, upon the aborigines for agricultural products, and from them learned the secret of their cultivation, which in some localities was carried on with almost as much care as is at this day exercised by some white farmers. According to Wood they:

"Cull out the finest seeds, to observe fittest season, to keep distance for holes and fit measure for hills, to worm it and weed it; to prune it, and dress it, as occasion shall require."—Brinton, 74.

In the Vimont Relation twenty-nine tribes living south of the Great Lakes are described as sedentary and cultivators of the soil.

Cartier, probably the first European explorer to pass up the St. Lawrence, found the Hurons the possessors of large fields of corn. Much of the grain was stored in the garrets at the tops of their houses. Champlain, in 1610, speaking of the same tribes, especially north of the St. Lawrence and in the vicinity of lakes Erie, Ontario and Huron, adds that:

"Most of these Indians cultivated corn, which was their principal food, and which they also exchanged for skins with the hunting tribes living north of them."—Voyages, p. 301.

He found them in possession of a supply sufficient to last them three or four years in case of a failure of the crops. Henry Hudson in 1609, found the New York Indians in practically the same circumstances, and estimates the quantity of Indian corn and beans of the previous years growth, in and about one house as sufficient "to load three ships", besides what was growing in the fields." General Sullivan's army which invaded the country of the Iroquois, in 1779, is credited with destruction of 160,000 bushels of corn, and of an orchard of 1500 apple trees. This amount is small when compared with the 1,200,000 bushels of corn, reported as destroyed by Marquis De Nouville, in his celebrated expedition against the Seneca Indians, in Ontario county, New York. While it is