

hired to eat it for them. They have been known to gormandize to that extent, that on leaving the feast they have fallen down dead; but even then, the survivors will not admit that it was over-eating that killed them. After the feast is over, the dishes and kettle are carefully wiped out with grass or evergreen boughs. They accustom their sons, when children, to eat a great deal, and frequently stuff them, when very young, with raccoon oil, to expand their stomachs, and often boast of their feats in eating.

The dog feast. The Sioux Indians, and I believe it is true of all others, consider that the greatest compliment they can pay a stranger, is to give him a dog feast. And this intended compliment constitutes the burthen of the speech of the giver of the feast, or the master of ceremonies. The traders are generally invited to these feasts. I have tasted dog meat; it is like pork, only it has a sweeter taste; those who can get over the prejudice against such meat, become very fond of it, but my prejudice was too strong ever to be able to relish it.

I think the Indians understand the art of flattery as well as any people in the world. When I concluded to enter into business for myself, there were several Indians of influence from about the mouth of the St. Peters River, and of the Gens de Feuille or Leaf Nation from the Little Rapids on the St. Peters, who had wintered in my neighborhood, and came to my house in the spring. I agreed with these Indians to meet me at my wintering house in the fall, with as many of their tribes as they could persuade to come up, that I would have a large cargo of goods, and would fit them out to go across to the head of the Mississippi to hunt. According to agreement, I met them in the fall, with two Mackinaw boat loads of goods, and found on my arrival, about three thousand Indians of the Yankton, Sissiton, Gens de Lac, Gens de Feuille and other Sioux bands, encamped about it, and they received me with a grand salute, each man having a gun, firing with ball over the boat, so that we could hear the