

should doe soe we gave orders to take him, or kill him and take his head off. The prisoner to be tyed [and] to fight in retreating. To pull an arrow out of y<sup>e</sup> body; to exercise and strike w<sup>th</sup> a clubbe, a buckler to their feete, and take it if neede requireth, and defende himselfe, if neede requirs, from the ennemye; being in sentery to heark y<sup>e</sup> ennemy that comes neere, and to heare the better lay him downe on the side. These postures are played while the drums beate. This was a serious thing, w<sup>th</sup>out speaking except by nodding or gesture. Their drums weare earthen potts full of watter, covered w<sup>th</sup> staggs-skin. The sticks like hammers for y<sup>e</sup> purpose. The elders have bomkins to the end of their staves full of small stones, w<sup>ch</sup> makes a rattle, to w<sup>ch</sup> yong men and women goe in a cadance. The elders are about these potts, beating them and singing. The women also by, having a nosegay in their hands, and dance very modestly, not lifting much their feete from the ground, keeping their heads downewards makeing a sweet harmony. We made guifts for that while 14 days' time. Every one brings y<sup>e</sup> most exquisite things, to shew what his country affoards. The renewing of their alliances, the marriages according to their countrey coustoms, are made; also the visit of the boans of their deceased ffriends, ffor they keepe them and bestow them upon one another. We sang in our language as they in theirs, to w<sup>ch</sup> they gave greate attention. We gave them severall guifts, and received many. They bestowed upon us above 300 robs of castors, out of w<sup>ch</sup> we brought not five to the ffrench, being far [away] in y<sup>e</sup> countrey.

This feast ended, every one returns to his country well satisfied. To be as good as our words, we came to the nation of y<sup>e</sup> beefe, w<sup>ch</sup> was seaven small Journeys from that place. We promised in like manner to the Christinos y<sup>e</sup> next spring we should come to their side of the upper lake [Superior] and there they should meet us, to come into their country.<sup>1</sup> We being arrived among y<sup>e</sup> nation of the beefe,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In the Hudson bay region.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> The band of Bœuf Sioux whom they met earlier in the season were on their winter hunt. The Frenchmen had now apparently come to the principal winter village. Radisson speaks of their summering grounds as