

Bread is made of the flour of Indian corn, baked under the ashes or in heated sand. It is good when one has a good appetite, and wonderfully increases one's flesh.

Every one enjoys good health at Missilimakinak; this may be ascribed to the healthfulness of the air, or of the food, but it is still better to ascribe it to both. A sure proof of the excellence of the climate is the sight of old men whose grand-sons are becoming gray; and one might say that death has not the strength to knock down these spectres, whose hearing and sight are nevertheless good. But their memory is often at fault, for they sometimes maintain that they are a hundred and fifty or two hundred years old, and they relate stories and anecdotes of things which they assert to have happened at that time; this is incredible, but they have the advantage of meeting no one who can contradict them, or give them the lie, otherwise than by induction.

Beavers are very scarce in the neighborhood of Missilimakinak, and the Savages of that post go 200 leagues to hunt them. A good hunter generally kills only fifty or sixty,—sometimes more, sometimes less,—from the month of October to the month of May. They exchange and barter their beaver-skins for our goods; this is called "trading" or "carrying on the trade." We supply them with powder, bullets, weapons, cloth, tobacco, and all things in use among us.

If people could realize the fatigues that have to be undergone to find beaver, they would not so despise that merchandise; for it must be known that the French convoy generally leaves Mont-Réal at the beginning of spring, or else about the 15th of September. In that country both seasons are unpleasant: one, owing to the melting of the ice and snow, which makes the water rapid and very cold; the other, because the cold weather is beginning, and there are many rapids on the way. Nearly always invincible in fishing, the Canadians (who are usually in their shirt-sleeves, with bare legs and feet), when their canoes cannot overcome the swiftness of the water, boldly jump into it, by sheer strength assisting one another; they succeed, but not without often getting the skin of their feet and legs torn, the rocks being so cold that they strongly adhere to the skin, and cannot