

Our agriculture, too, has been touched by the beneficent influence emanating from the Indian. For, he has taught our farmers the use of fishmanure, the burning over of fields as a preparation for planting, the planting of corn on hills, and many other important methods. One need not necessarily be a farmer to appreciate the value of these agricultural innovations. The fisherman of today, in following his occupation, still resorts to a number of devices that originated with the Indian. Thus, he is indebted to him, among other things, for the use of the fishweir, for the method of catching fish by means of narcotic poisons and for the practice of catching eels and salmon by torchlight. In like manner, the hunter received his share from the primitive American, learning from him the application of the blow-gun, so as not to injure the skin of the animal, and the method of trailing and capturing larger animals and wild beasts.

It has been remarked that we Americans could not live without recreation. Has it ever occurred to us how much we owe to the Indian in this particular respect? We love to go "canoeing" in the summer, we devote ourselves to "tobogganing" and "snow-shoeing" when our streets and hills are covered with snow, our sons in college bend their energies upon winning a "lacrosse championship" for their Alma Mater; our South American neighbors spend a great deal of their time in playing "raquette"; but few of us know that these pastimes have been handed down to us by the Indian. Even our comforts and luxuries are not free from this all-comprising influence. "Panama hats", "Navajo blankets", "hammocks", "moss-bags", "moccasins", "snow goggles", "dog-sleds", "mimac-grass", all these are gifts of the Aborigines. And "tobacco", this curse and blessing of our civilization, does it not come from the Indian? Even if we have to admit that tobacco is doing an enormous damage to our communities are we to blame the Indian for it? The fact remains that its cultivation has become the basis of prosperity in a number of our states and other countries.

If the above-mentioned gifts have entitled the Indian to our everlasting gratitude, his contributions to our supply of food have made him the real benefactor not only of our own country, but also of the whole world as well. By teaching the early settler the planting of potatoes and maize he has changed, as if by a magic touch, hitherto bare and uncultivated regions into thrifty, prosperous states. Suffice it to say, that without the cultivation of potatoes and corn Ireland, Northern Germany, Roumania, and a number of our wealthiest states would be nothing but wild, unoccupied regions. And the generosity of the Indian did not stop here. There is a vast amount of items in our daily food that we received through the direct or indirect mediation of the Indian. Tomatoes, squash, hominy, pumpkin, lima-beans, pineapple, custard-apple, persim-