

they were in 1586, before they had been spoiled by contact with the whites; before fire-water, as they well termed whiskey and rum, and diseases which seemed like followers of the whites had begun to play their terrible part. These paintings are copies of the ones in the British Museum made by Gov. John White of the first real colony here, that of 1586 on Roanoke Island, and they show what fine looking people the Indians were; large figured, with comely women and warriors who really look the part. Every detail is shown of the dress; the modes of wearing the hair which distinguished the married woman from the unmarried; the dress of chiefs; that of the conjurers, shamans or medicine men; the construction of the towns; the modes of taking fish and cooking them, in the latter case the "planking" of shad having been copied from the Indians. These striking pictures are in the North Carolina Hall of History at Raleigh and they form a subject for careful study. ¶ The Tuscaroras crushed the neighboring tribes when they came down from the North and took possession, for their coming was nothing less than an invasion. Some of the tribes became dependents of these terrible Indians and joined with them in their attacks upon the whites, so that the latter, after the great massacre of 1711, killed with equal satisfaction and thoroughness the Tuscaroras and the Indians of five or six septes, including the Bear Creek, Matchapungo and others, being careful to kill every Indian boy over the age of 14, since at that age a boy became a cadet, the next step to a warrior. The conquered were sent to slavery in South Carolina and Virginia, Bermuda and other West India Islands, as well as in North Carolina, and the Governor of this province got about a dozen as his portion, which he sold to a West India planter for 10 pounds apiece.

This forever ended the Tuscaroras in North Carolina except one portion of them headed by a sub-chief, Tom Blount, which aided the whites and in fact was as eager as they to kill what were known as the "Enemy Indians." This Tom Blount was the natural son of a man then prominent in England and this country, whose family is to this day one of the best known in Eastern Carolina. He and his followers were granted 60,000 acres of land by the grateful Province of North Carolina, this being in Bertie County and yet known as the "Indian Woods." Some months ago a Tuscarora Indian came from New York State to see if he could not obtain some, at least, of this land, but it has all passed out of the hands of the Indians these many years by death, by intermarriage with the whites and by sales. ¶ The Englishmen were squeamish in the early days about marrying the Indian women, and in this respect differed much from the French, who declared such marriages to be well advised. Of unlawful living there was plenty, but squawmen, that is white husbands of Indian women, were few indeed among the English. The French contended that a great race could have been bred on this continent by intermarriage, a race with the best qualities of whites and Indians.

The Indians had few diseases, led the simple life and lived by their wits every hour. They were so acute in their perceptions that they almost had a sixth

sense. Their scent was as keen as a dog's, their hearing infinitely good, their sense of direction that of an animal and they could go hundreds of miles through the trackless woods without an error. To this very day the Cherokees in this State have a superb development of the sense of direction, coupled with another Indian trait, remarkably keen sight. ¶ All through North Carolina in those far away days buffalo and deer and bear were plentiful. The Indians had no way of killing or capturing these or other animals except with the bow and arrow with stone points, stone axes, tomahawks, spears and knives, for they knew not metal; traps and dead-falls and snares made with great cleverness for small game. Fish they got by spearing and shooting, by catching with rude nets made out of grass twine and with the crushed seed-pods of the buckeye or horse-chestnut put in a closed basket which was churned up and down in the water of a small pond until it stupified the fish. They also caught fish by means of a rod and looped horsehair, as the Cherokees do to this day with rare adroitness. The writer has observed Cherokee men and boys and sometimes women lifting trout and jack fish in this fashion from streams as clear as a dew-drop. ¶ The Indians called their settlements "towns." Some of these they liked so well that they may be called permanent, and in such a case they were surrounded frequently by palisades, made of logs sharpened at the top and set a couple of feet deep in a trench, with an entrance way arranged like the letter S. Within were the councilhouse and other buildings, and near by, the fields of corn and tobacco, small indeed but yet as to the corn troubled much by birds, principally the Carolina Parakeet, a dwarf parrot, vivid yellow in color, with wings of blue and red. This little parrot did not disappear from North Carolina until about 75 years ago. In each cornfield the Indians had a stand made of a pole with notches cut in it, supporting a platform on which an Indian sat during the day and when the birds came he would clap together two pieces of flat wood and frighten them away.

The Indians made the most of what they had and they lived well generally, though in a hard winter in the western part of the State they must sometimes have been put to it for provisions, for they were naturally improvident, as all children of Nature are. They were inveterate hunters and fishermen and it is therefore not strange that game is nowhere scarcer than within the Cherokee boundary, up in high Jackson and Swain counties. It has in fact become so scarce that the Indians have forgotten the art of making clothing from skins and depend entirely upon the whites for their clothes, as they do for the cheap shot gun or rifle, now so useless there, and the fish hooks. ¶ The "Croatan" Indians, to use the popular name, have not one Indian word or affiliation and no footing whatever with any other Indians. Ever since 1866 they have tried to get in with the Cherokees, but the latter deny any kinship. The Cherokees are true Indians, are wards of the United States and are not at all subject to North Carolina except for crimes. They do not vote. The United States maintains their schools. These Indians of the Cherokee Nation." The main por-

(Concluded on page six)



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