

are often nearly a thousand, consisting of all the Spokane tribe, who are generally included under the name of the Flatheads. They subsist for the most part on roots, fish, berries, and game. At the opening of the spring, in March and April, or as soon as the snow disappears, they begin to search for a root resembling the cammass, which they call pox-pox. This lasts them till the beginning of May, when it gives place to a bitter root, termed spatylon. This is a slender and white root, not unlike vermicelli in appearance, and when boiled it dissolves into a white jelly, like arrow-root. It has a bitter but not disagreeable flavour, and is remarkable for growing in gravelly soils, where nothing else will thrive. In June, the itzwa, or cammass, comes in season, and is found in greater quantities than the others, all over the country, particularly in the meadow-grounds. This root was thought by many of us to have the taste of boiled chestnuts. Before this fails, the salmon make their appearance, and during the summer months the Indians enjoy a very plentiful supply of food. While the men are employed fishing, the women are busy digging the cammass, which may be termed the principal occupations of the two sexes. They devote a portion of their time to the collection of berries, a work which is principally the duty of the younger part of the tribes.

In September and October, the salmon still claim their attention: although they are, after having deposited their roes, quite exhausted and about to perish, yet these are dried for their winter consumption; and unless they had recourse to these, much want would ensue, which is always the case if the salmon should be scarce.

In October, they dig an inferior root, somewhat of the shape of a parsnep, that is called by the Indians mesani: it has a peculiar taste, and when baked is of a black colour. After this has disappeared, they depend upon their stores of dried food, and game, including bears, deer, badgers, squirrels, and wild-fowl; which they sometimes take in great quantities. These, however, fail them at times, and it then generally happens that their salmon becomes exhausted also, when they are obliged to have recourse to the moss, the preparation of which has been before spoken of, and which can be scarcely more than sufficient to sustain them until the spring again returns, and brings them the usual round of food. Like all savages, they are improvident, and take no thought whatever for the future. They are as prodigal in all other things as in their domestic economy, and frequently waste articles that might be quite useful if taken care of: their health suffers from the same cause. Notwithstanding, in all their usual concerns they are not devoid of sagacity, and frequent their different fishing-places and root-