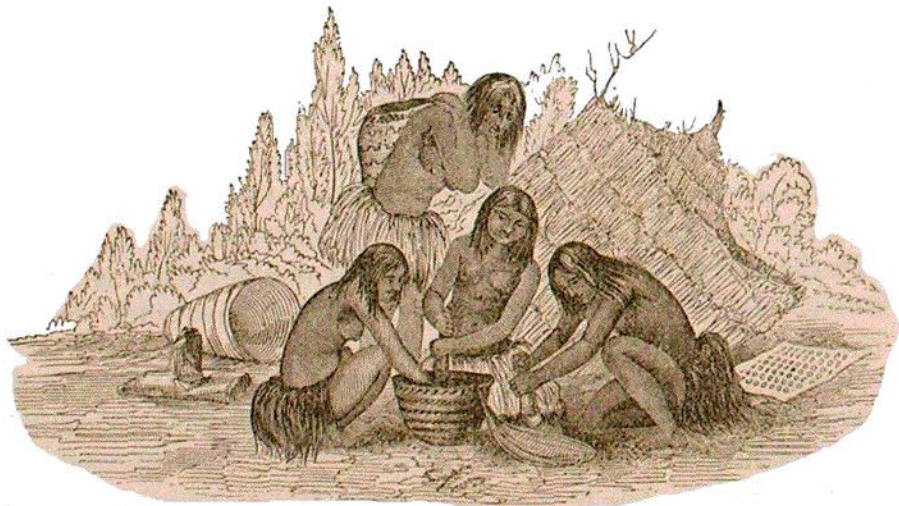


The Indians have several rancherias around New Helvetia. Their lodges are all somewhat like low haycocks, being composed of a framework of sticks, thatched with the bulrush. In these there was no excavation, neither were they covered with earth; these dwellings were at the time deserted by the Indians, who were found encamped about half a mile nearer the river, with but a few boughs and mats to shelter them. The latter are manufactured after the manner that has been described as used by the Indians of Oregon.

At the rancheria, the men are generally found engaged in various games of chance, similar to those before described; it is not believed, however, that they carry their gambling propensities to such an extent as to stake their liberty. On the women, all the drudgery seems to be thrown. They were seen engaged in weaving water-tight baskets: these are very neatly made, of sufficient capacity to hold a bushel, and in these it is said they contrive to boil water and cook their food.

In the preparation of the acorn-bread all assist. The acorns are gathered in very large quantities, piled in heaps, and spread in the sun to dry. Both men and women are to be seen employed shelling, pounding, and baking them into bread: the pounding is performed upon a plank that has been hollowed out, with a stone pestle. To reduce the large quantity to a fine powder, requires great labour. This employment presents a busy scene, though the want of cleanliness, I may almost say pig-like filthiness with which it is performed, excites disgust.



INDIANS POUNDING ACORNS.

Around New Helvetia, although but a few days had elapsed since