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Observations on the Indians of the Colorado River, California, by George Gibbs; Accompanying vocabularies of the Yuma and Mohave tribes 1856

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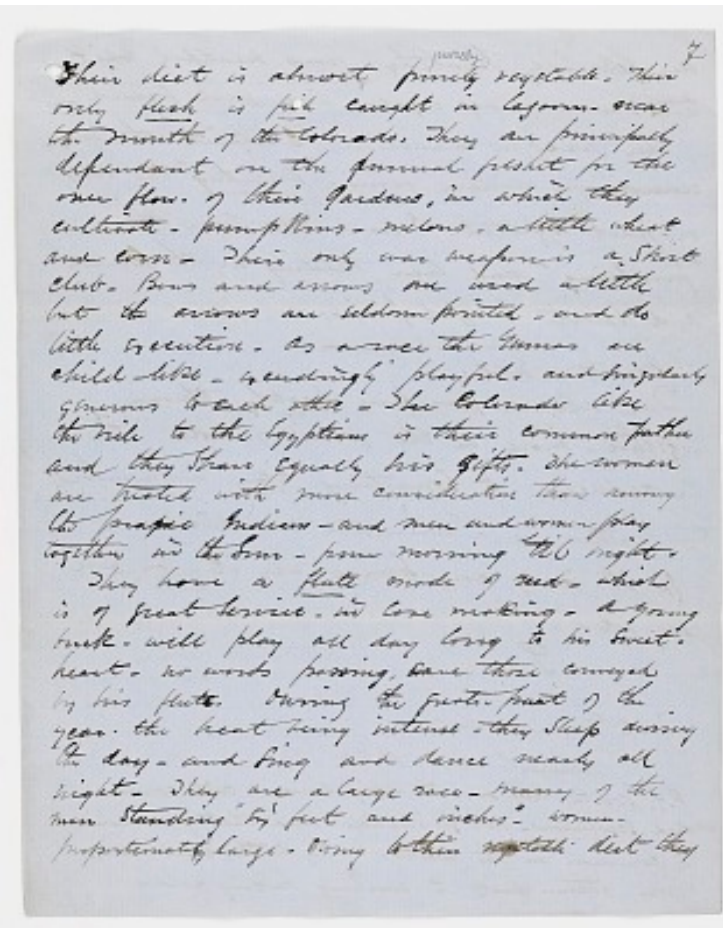
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Their diet is almost purely vegetable. Their only flesh is fish caught in lagoons near the mouth of the Colorado. They are principally dependent on the annual freshet for the overflow of their gardens, in which they cultivate - pumpkins - melons - a little wheat and corn. Their only war weapon is a short club. Bows and arrows are used a little but the arrows are seldom pointed, and do little execution. As ever the Yumas are child-like, exceedingly playful, and singularly generous to each other. The Colorado like the Nile to the Egyptians is their common Father and they share equally his gifts. The women are treated with more consideration than among the Pacific Indians, and men and women play together in the sun, from morning 'til night.

They have a flute made of reeds, which is of great service in love making. A young buck will play all day long to his sweet-heart, no words passing, save those conveyed by his flute. During the greater part of the year, the heat being intense, they sleep during the day, and sing and dance nearly all night. They are a large race, many of the men standing "six feet and inches". Women proportionately large, owing to their vegetable diet they



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