Empire Burlesque

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The Bitterroot

Fr. *Racine amère*, or (lit.) *root bitter*; always the French preceding them with a toe hold in the tongue, so to speak, the lingo (Sioux, Shoshone) they’ve come so far to sway away, to wow, to woo.

Drouillard drops a sack of roots, *(fusiform, abt six inches long, rind white, thin)*
& new to science from some fellow stole his gun,
his first mistake, then fled (his second) to the bench above river, D in hot pursuit, &c. The issue quickly settled—no dead—*hoi physikoi* set to *(cilindric, hard, size of a small quill)*
which, on a smoky fire they bring to boil

& nearly gag on. Later, a quiet brand of misery, like embracing a bayonet, each to his own.