

the French, had they not, a little too late, discovered a remedy which acted at once. This was a decoction of the leaf and bark of the white pine pounded together. Cartier was himself attacked with the disease, when the Indians taught him this secret. He had already lost twenty-five men, and scarcely two or three were left him able to act. A week, however, after beginning to use this remedy all were up. Some even, it is said, who had had the venereal disease, and had not been perfectly cured, in a short time recovered perfect health.¹ This same tree produces the turpentine, or white Canada balsam.

In the memoir on his second voyage, presented by Cartier to Francis I., he does not attribute to intercourse with the Indians, which his men had at first kept up, the malady which had been on the point of sweeping off all his party; but to the indolence of his people and the condition to which they were exposed.² In fact, the Canada Indians have never been subject to scurvy. So this captain, in spite of his losses, and the rigorous cold from which he suffered all the more, as he had not taken precautions to guard against a difficulty which he had not foreseen, did not hesitate to assure his majesty that great advantages could be derived from the country which he had just visited.

He stated that most of the land is quite fertile, the climate very healthy, the people sociable and easily kept in respect. He spoke to him especially of the furs as an important object. But he insisted chiefly on the point that it was most worthy of a great prince like him, who bore the title of Most Christian King and Eldest Son of the Church, to extend the knowledge of Christ to so many

¹ Brief Recit, pp. 34 verso to 38 verso. The Indian name of the tree was Ameda or Annedda. Cartier gives no French name, but it is generally admitted to be the white pine. See Champlain, 1613, p. 65. French Onondaga Dictionary, p. 21. That

Cartier was not attacked, we may infer from the Brief Recit, p. 36.

² The disease broke out among the Indians first (Brief Recit, p. 34 verso), and fifty died before a Frenchman was attacked. The narrative says nothing of the indolence of the men.

1536.
Notion of
Canada
given to the
king by
Cartier.