

1536. infidel nations, who did not seem difficult to convert to Christianity.<sup>1</sup>

His return to France.

Some authors, however, pretend that Cartier, disgusted with Canada, dissuaded the king, his master, from further thoughts of it; and Champlain seems to have been of that opinion. But this does not agree with what Cartier himself says in his memoirs, nor with what we read in other relations of his voyages. It is added that on starting from Ste. Croix to return to France, which he did as soon as the navigation of the river was open, he by stratagem took Donnacona with him;<sup>2</sup> that he presented the chief to the king, and made him repeat to the prince all that he had himself said of the advantages of the country: but this is not certain.

Judgment on the memoirs.

If Cartier's memoirs<sup>3</sup> long served as a guide to those who after him navigated the gulf and river St. Lawrence, it is certain that in our days they are almost unintelligible, because, besides the subsequent changing of most of the names which he gave to the islands, rivers, capes, etc., the terms which he cites are not to be found in any Canadian language, whether he distorted them from not catching the true sound, or because they have become obsolete, as happens with all living languages; yet much less among the Indians than among us, as I have been assured on the spot. Indeed, most words given by travellers as proper names, when they are not absolutely invented, have generally no foundation but words badly understood, or taken in a sense quite different from that belonging to them.

<sup>1</sup> Brief Recit, p. 5. There is no allusion to fur. See Thevet, *Singularitez de la France Antarctique*, 1558, 4o, p. 148-9.

<sup>2</sup> Cartier relates the seizing of Donnacona (p. 41 verso et seq.), after having previously stated the evidently hostile preparations making against the French, and the attempt of Donnacona to get Cartier in his hands.

Donnacona lived four or five years in France. Thevet, *Cosmographie*, 145-6. Cartier left Ste. Croix, May 6, and reached St. Malo, July 6, 1536. Brief Recit, 44 verso and 46 verso.

<sup>3</sup> Charlevoix had apparently not seen Hakluyt or the Brief Recit of 1545, but followed Lescarbot, who abridges and alters Cartier. See his edition of 1618, pp. 226-377.