

1536. Our author then assures us that one day hunting he pursued a two-footed deer, which ran with extraordinary speed.¹ He doubtless saw through the bushes an Indian in a deerskin, with the fur outside, and perhaps heard him imitate an animal's cry, to draw it into a trap, after the Indian fashion. The Indian, on his side, who perhaps had never seen a European, seeing an extraordinary man, took flight. Cartier, ignorant that these Indians do not yield to deer and stags in fleetness of foot, much astonished to see his assumed deer run as fast on two legs as on four, concluded that it was an animal of a peculiar species. And from a similar source, perhaps, come all that is written of fawns and satyrs. But here is something still more admirable.

Donnacona, if we credit the relation of the St. Malo captain, related to him that in a voyage which he made to a country far remote from his own,² he saw men who did not eat, and had no issue in the body for excrements, but who drank and passed liquids. That in another region were men who had but one leg and thigh, with a very large foot, two hands on the same arm, the waist extremely square, the breast and head flat, and a very small mouth. That still further on he had seen pygmies, and a sea the water of which was fresh.³ In fine, that, ascending the Saguenay, you reach a country where there are men dressed like us, who live in cities, and have much gold, rubies, and copper.⁴

It is certain that our missionaries have ascended the Saguenay as far as possible, with the Indians, and most of its branches; that they have seen only frightful districts, impracticable for any but wandering savages, many of

¹ Cartier does not say so. Lescarbot makes him say that he saw footprints of a biped, which were more than a palm long, and which he followed on the sand for some distance. Lescarbot, Hist., p. 393.

² Saguenay. Brief Recit, p. 40 verso.

³ This is exaggerated. The Brief Recit says: "Moreover says to have been in another country of Picquemians and other countries, where the people have only one leg."

⁴ Not ascending the Saguenay, but at Saguenay. Brief Recit, p. 40 verso.