

whom even perish of famine and hardship. But it may be observed that an Indian, for whom seven or eight hundred leagues' march is no great affair, might easily, by taking the Saguenay route, and then turning west, penetrate to Lake Assiniboin, which is, it is said, six hundred leagues in circuit, and thence pass to New Mexico, where the Spaniards began at that time to settle.¹

1536.

It is, moreover, very strange that the story of one-legged men should be renewed quite recently by a young Esquimaux girl, captured in 1717, and brought to Mr. de Courtemanche, on the coast of Labrador, where she was still in 1720, when I reached Quebec. This girl, one day seeing fishermen on the seashore, asked whether there were only men made like that among us. They were surprised at her question, but still more at her adding that she had seen in her country two men of monstrous size and bulk who discharged their excrements from the mouth, and made water under the shoulder. She also said that among her countrymen there was another kind of men, who had only one leg, one thigh, and a very large foot, two hands on the same arm, a broad body, flat head, small eyes, scarcely any nose, and a very small mouth; that they were always in a bad humor; that they could remain under the water three-quarters of an hour at a time, and that the Esquimaux used them to fish up the fragments of the ships wrecked on the coast.

She finally averred that in the northern extremity of Labrador was a people entirely black, with large lips, a broad nose, straight white hair; that this nation was very wicked, and although badly armed, having only stone knives and axes, without any iron, it had rendered itself a terror to the Esquimaux; and that they use snow-

Black men
in the
north.

¹ The Saguenay of the St. Lawrence Indians was evidently the Lake Superior region, and possibly the parts accessible by the Mississippi. The River Saguenay was not so called from being in, but from leading to, Saguenay. See Brief Recit, p. 33 verso. The direct route to Saguenay was by a river that entered the St Lawrence at Montreal. Ib., p. 34.