

1562. Canada, except in being more given to divination; but they have to deal with a more superstitious people. The education given to children consists almost exclusively in training them to run, without distinction of sex; and prizes are offered to those who excel. Hence it follows that they are all, both men and women, of wonderful agility. You see them at the top of the highest trees before you see them climb. They are also very skilful in the use of the bow, and in hurling a kind of javelin, which they use very effectively in war. To conclude, they swim with extreme speed; even women, though burdened with their children, which they carry on their arms, swim over large rivers.¹

Animals.

The most common quadrupeds in this part of Florida are two kinds of lion, the stag, deer, bison (not differing from that of Canada), hind, otter, beaver, wolf, hare, rabbit, wildeat, and woodrat; but all are not found in the same districts. Most of our birds of prey and aquatic birds are seen everywhere; as well as partridges, wild pigeons, ringdoves, storks, guineahens, cormorants, many kinds of parrots, and various small birds. The humming-bird of Canada is not seen there in summer, but retires there in winter, this little animal being, apparently, unable to stand either extreme heat or cold. The rivers are full of alligators; the fields and woods of serpents, especially of those called rattlesnakes.

Trees.

The forests abound in pines, which bear no fruit, oaks, walnuts, mulberry, lentisks, bourbon palms, chestnuts, cedar, cypress, laurel, palm-trees, and vines. Medlars are also found, with fruit larger and better than in France; and plum-trees, with very delicate plums.² It may well be that these plums are no other than the piakimines mentioned in my journal. But the tree most esteemed in the country is sassafras, which the Floridians call *palamé* or *pavama*.³

¹ Histoire Notable, pp. 7, 13.

² Probably *P. Americana*, Hist. Notable, p. 5. Of the plums, he says: "Fort beau, mais non gueres bon."

³ See description of animals and plants in Histoire Notable, p. 5; Ribault, Whole and True Discovery, p. 101.