

1564. those who pursue them, and vanish as they think they lay their hands upon them. Our adventurers were not, however, discouraged, and were ever buoyed up by chimerical hopes, which prevented their obtaining, at far less cost, real advantages more precious than mines. They saw at last, although somewhat too late, that the Indians sought merely to delude them, while they gradually stripped them of their goods. The savages did not even agree with each other as to the points where these mines were to be found. Most, however, declared that there was yellow iron in the mountains of Apalache. The same had been told the Spaniards, and it is pretended that copper has been really found there; and even some grains of gold among the sand washed down by the mountain torrents.¹

Strange
custom of
the Indians.

During the voyage just mentioned, one of the brothers le Vasseur had a singular adventure. As he was returning from Timagoa, he stopped with a paraousti, at war with that nation, who asked him whether he had destroyed his enemies. The pilot replied that he had killed some, and that if the chief had not been warned of his march, and secured himself in the woods, not one would have escaped. There was not a word of truth in what he said; but he imagined that if he spoke otherwise, the paraousti would have taken him for an ally of Timagoa, and given him trouble. The paraousti then asked him whether he had taken any scalps. No, replied le Vasseur, it is not a custom with us Frenchmen.

Then one of the paraousti's people took an arrow, which had been stuck in the ground, and struck one of his comrades who was sitting a little way off, crying, "*Hiou*," then replaced the arrow where it had been; but seizing it a moment after, again pierced the same Indian with it, repeating the same cry. The wounded man at once stretched himself out at full length on the ground, apparently with-

¹ The gold region of North Carolina but it was unknown in Charlevoix's day.