

1611. duties; they even won over, by their courtesy, all in whom prejudice had not warped all uprightness of heart. Mr. de Poutrincourt always acted honorably with them. This gentleman had religious feelings, and it is impossible to read without edification the letter¹ which he wrote in 1608 to Pope Paul V., to testify the sincere zeal which induced him to exile himself with his family to a foreign land, in order to bring the heathen to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and soliciting his apostolical benediction. But when prejudice is supported by interested views it makes an impression rarely effaced, and leads to steps the consequence of which are not foreseen. The Calvinists in France incessantly declared that the Jesuits went to the New World only to rule and enrich themselves; and they had even persuaded Catholics, who dreaded to find terrible rivals in these religious. Hence there never was between Mr. de Poutrincourt and the missionaries that good understanding which would have contributed infinitely to advance the work of God, and been of no small use in solidly establishing Port Royal.²

The Indians of Acadia. Father Biard has given us a relation of his voyage,³ and of what occurred before his eyes in Acadia, to which, I think, more credit can be given than to the memoirs used by John de Laet⁴ to decry the Jesuits; even were not these memoirs refuted by Mr. Champlain, who was present, at all. This missionary, speaking of the natives of the country—then called *Souriquois*, and since by us termed *Micmacs*—portrays them to us as men well formed, and of an advantageous stature.⁵ Lescarbot says the same; yet

¹ It may be found in Lescarbot (ed. 1609, p. 656; ed. 1618, p. 605), who drew it up.

² Mr. Faillon, in his late history, regards both Lescarbot and Poutrincourt as really belonging to the Calvinist party, if not open Calvinists.

³ Lyons, 1612, 1618.

⁴ De Laet, *Novus Orbis*, p. 59. De Laet followed the last edition of Lescarbot, which Charlevoix did not know, and actually cites Lescarbot as his authority.

⁵ Biard (p. 8) says they are of smaller stature than the French. Charlevoix seems to have drawn little in his account of the Indians from Biard.