

weaker, they augured ill. A feast was given at a boy's birth, as well as when he cut his first tooth and killed his first animal in the chase. If any one, on entering a cabin, caressed the children, they made him a present. Brothers and sisters treated each other with much civility and modesty.

These Indians had quite a curious way of restoring those who had been nearly drowned and had swallowed much water. They filled with tobacco-smoke a bladder or large intestine, well tied at one end ; to the other they attached a small reed, and inserting it into the anus, by pressing the intestine or bladder, forced the smoke into the body. They then hung him by his feet to a tree ; and the smoke, which filled his belly, made him discharge by the mouth all the water he had swallowed.

The Acadians have at all times lived on good terms with the French ; and there is the more reason to be surprised, as they got it into their head that our nation would destroy them. In fact, even in Mr. de Monts' time, they diminished sensibly ; and soon after, a great many deserted places were shown, where large towns were said to have existed before our fishermen frequented the coast. They added that they had been poisoned ; and this reproach was not without foundation. Sublimate and other similar drugs were more than once found in their hands, given to them by Frenchmen who taught them how to use them to get rid of their enemies. I do not believe that this happened often ; but what was only too ordinary is, that some of the provisions brought in were damaged, causing diseases, the more dangerous as the Indians were ignorant of their cause and nature as well as of their proper treatment.¹

Misconduct
of some
Frenchmen
towards
them.

¹ Biard, Relation, p. 14. In his letters he says that this decrease had begun previously, and cites statements of Mambertou as to population in his earlier days. Biard estimates the Etchemins at one thousand ; Algonquins and Montagnais, one thousand ; Micmacs, two thousand. Carayon, Documents Inédits, xii. p. 83.