

1635-6. Lescarbot reproaches him with credulity. It is the fault of upright minds, and we cannot, in fact, overlook what he says of the Gourou,¹ and the monstrous face of the Armouchiquois Indians.² He had been deceived by one Prevert, of St. Malo, who often delighted in inventing such stories, which he related with great assurance; as when he one day protested, in presence of Mr. de Poutrincourt, that he had seen an Indian playing ball with the devil. He was asked what shape this devil assumed, and he replied that he had seen only the bat, which seemed to be moved by an invisible hand. Champlain could not understand how a man who had no interest in lying could do so in sport, and actually believed Prevert's story. As it is impossible to be faultless, it is well to have only those faults that would be virtues were all men what they should be.³

College of
Quebec.

To return to the college of Quebec, the Jesuits proceeded without delay to fulfil the obligations which they had just contracted by accepting this foundation. They felt all its importance, and, in fact, nothing could have been more seasonable for the progress of the colony. Many Frenchmen, certain of being able to give their sons an education not attainable then in many towns in France, settled in New France;⁴ and the Indians, who were duly impressed with an idea of the advantage they might derive from such an establishment, came from all parts in numbers to the neighborhood of Quebec.

As they were invariably well treated at the college by free bestowal of food for the body, they were rendered docile to receive that of the soul, and some cheerfully intrusted their sons to persons who undertook to bring them up.⁵ By this means they were more and more civilized; and as

¹ Lescarbot, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France* (ed. 1613), pp. 397, 402. Champlain, *Des Sauvages*, 1603, ch. xii. xiii. Gougou, gourou, means remorse of conscience.

² Champlain, *Voy.* (ed. 1613), p. 3.

³ Lescarbot, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, ed. 1613, p. 403.

⁴ As to the origin of the settlers of this epoch, see Ferland, *Notes sur les Registres*, p. 40.

⁵ *Relation de la N. F.*, 1636, p. 44.