

a nation of which the same thing is said : but many people perish in that country by the teeth of a kind of bear of enormous size, with extremely long claws.¹ 1667.

The Kilistinons or Cristinaux, whom our Canadians call Criques,² at that time made excursions to this extremity of Lake Superior, and Father Allouez, who saw several there, declares that they worship the sun, sacrificing to it dogs, which they hang on trees:³ he adds that these Indians are great talkers, and speak very fast, contrary to the custom of all others of this continent; our voyageurs for this reason call them the *Gascons of Canada*.⁴ Their language is an Algonquin dialect, closely resembling that of the Attikamegues.⁵ This, with the fact that the latter name is that of a fish commonly called the whitefish, very abundant at the northern part of Lake Huron, may induce us to think that these Attikamegues formerly dwelt near the shores of Lake Superior.⁶

The Cristinaux.

At the beginning of the year 1667, Father Allouez learned that the Nipissings, in great number, had retired to the shores of Lake Alimipegon,⁷ which is north of Lake Superior and empties into it. Thither he proceeded, arriving early in June: he found these unfortunate fugitives, who were nearly all Christians, in the same state in which

Various excursions of Father Allouez

¹ Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 24. Allouez represents it as all red.

² Now called Crees in English.

³ Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 24.

⁴ The Relation, 1658, p. 21, divides the Crees into Alimibegouek, Kilistinons*of Ataoubouscatouek Bay, Kilistinons of the Nipissings, and the Nisibourounik.

⁵ Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 24, adds the Indians of Tadoussac.

⁶ The Attikamegues, when known to the French, resided back of Three Rivers: Relation de la N. F., 1636, p. 37; 1641, p. 32, etc. Baraga, in his Otchipwe-English Dictionary, gives Atikameg for White Fish, and

calls the Crees Kinishtinon. House, in his Grammar of the Cree Language (London, 1844), p. 2, says their national name is Nehethowuck—exact beings or people; but this expression, Men, is so common that it cannot be considered the name, each tribe having another. Iriniwek or Iliniwek (Indians in Chippewa and Illinois) becomes in Cree Ethinuck, which is the main word in Nehethowuck. These Crees inhabit the territory drained by the rivers emptying into Hudson's Bay: House, p. 3; Relation, 1661, p. 12; Perrot, Mœurs et Coustumes, pp. 54, 91.

⁷ Alimibegong: Rel., 1667, p. 25.