

1659. the use of which was still unknown to their hosts; that they killed some; but that at last, rage and numbers compensating for the advantages which rendered the Hurons and Ottawas so insolent, the Sioux massacred several.¹

Sioux and
Hurons.

One day, among others, having drawn several Hurons into a kind of lake or marsh, all covered with wild rice, they caught them, with their canoes, in nets which the Hurons did not perceive; after which they poured in upon them such a shower of arrows, that not a man escaped. The rest at last thought it advisable to draw off from a nation with whom they could no longer hope for a reconciliation; and they accordingly proceeded to settle south-east of the western point of Lake Superior, where our two voyageurs found them.²

Peculiarities
of the
Sioux.

Passing thence among the Sioux, they observed some women with their noses cut off, and a part of the head scalped. On asking the reason, they were told that it was the penalty inflicted on women for adultery. This seemed to them very rigorous, because polygamy is tolerated among this people.³ The Sioux nation was then very numerous, and divided into forty towns,⁴ all large and populous; and as these towns often change place, the Sioux country was of immense extent.⁵ Two Jesuits who, in 1687 and 1689,⁶ made some excursions among them, spoke of them as a very powerful people; and one of them, Father Joseph Marest, often expressed to me his great regret that he was not enabled to take up his residence among those Indians, whom he found docile and reasonable. He added that the Sioux did not wreak on their

¹ Perrot: *Mœurs et Costumes des Sauvages*, p. 87.

² Perrot, *Mœurs et Costumes des Sauvages*, p. 88; *De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale*, ii., p. 217. One Huron, called *Le Froid*, escaped.

³ *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1660, p. 13.

⁴ The Relation for 1660, p. 13, says forty towns, five containing each 5000 men.

⁵ Hennepin was a prisoner among the Sioux in 1679-80, and gives the earliest details: *Description de la Louisiane*, Paris, 1683, pp. 206-285.

⁶ Fathers Joseph Marest and Ignatius Guignas.