

CHAPTER V.

WHETHER THERE ARE SORCERERS AMONG THE HURONS.

HERE are some conjectures, let the wiser ones judge of them. In the first place, these People are not so foolish as not to seek and to acknowledge something [133] above the senses; and, since their lewdness and licentiousness hinder them from finding God, it is very easy for the Devil to thrust himself in and to offer them his services in their pressing necessities, causing them to pay him a homage that is not due him, and having intercourse with certain more subtle minds, who extend his influence among these poor people.

2. You see nothing more common here than charms; children inherit them from their fathers, if they have been proved good; and they do not make any secret of them, as I have just said. We have a Savage in our Village, surnamed the *Fisher*, on account of his good fortune in fishing; this man attributes all his success to the ashes of a certain little bird that is called *Ohguione*, which, according to his statement, penetrates the trunks of trees without resistance. When he goes fishing, he mixes his ashes with a little water, and, having rubbed his nets with them, he feels confident that the fish will enter them in abundance; in fact, he has acquired fame from this.

3. There are among these People men who presume to command the rain and winds; others, to