

about thirteen hundred leagues from France,—measuring from France to us in a straight line towards the West, under the same parallel of latitude,—and from Quebec, the principal settlement of our French people in New France, two hundred leagues,—although people generally travel more than three hundred to arrive here from that place, on account of the detours that must be made, to avoid an encounter with the enemies of these tribes.

In this small extent of country—situated to the East-Southeast of a great lake, called by some “fresh-water Sea”—are to be found four Nations, or rather four different collections or assemblages of grouped family stocks,—all of whom, having a community of language, of enemies, [5] and of other interests, are hardly distinguishable except by their different progenitors, grandfathers and great-grandfathers, whose names and memories they cherish tenderly. They increase or diminish their numbers, however, by the adoption of other families, who join themselves now to some, now to others, and who also sometimes withdraw to form a band and a nation by themselves.

The general name, and that which is common to these four Nations, in the language of the country is Wendat; the individual names are Attignawantan, Attigneenongnahac, Arendahronons, and Tohontaenrat. The first two are the two most important, having received the others into their country, as it were, and adopted them,—the one fifty years ago, and the other thirty. These first two speak with certainty of the settlements of their Ancestors, and of the different sites of their villages, for more than two hundred years back; for, as may have been remarked in previous Relations, they are obliged to change their