

[184] CHAPTER XII.

CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS OF THE SAVAGES.

THERE are Savages who bear as many names as the various titles and divers qualities with which some Europeans are encumbered. As in France there are names peculiar to men, and others to women, so, among the Savages, the name of a man is not given to a woman. It seems as if nature had taught this distinction to all the nations of the earth. These names are mostly derived from natural things; as, for instance, from animals, from Fishes, from the Seasons,—in a word, from everything that affects the senses. One will call himself *Arimouchtigwan*, “the Dog’s head;” another, *De-chinkinagadich*, “a small Buckler;” a third, *Oumithikens*, “the Thorn,” and so on.

A child’s name is given to him shortly after his birth. When he passes from childhood to adolescence, he changes his name as the Romans changed their robes. [185] He takes another name when he attains manhood, and still another in old age; so that they change their names according to their ages. When they escape a danger or recover from an illness, they take a name which they think will be of better augury than the one they had. The Sorcerers or Soothsayers will sometimes make a sick man change his name, thinking that death, or the Manitou that tried to attack the man, will no longer know him