

the great river of saint Lawrence; but this route is very difficult for them.

These peoples are simple, kind, candid, peaceful; they have the same superstitions as the other Savages, and the same Prophets or Soothsayers,—whom we call “sorcerers” and “magicians,” because there is indeed some probability that certain among them have commerce with the Demons. They use drums, breathings, songs, sweats, eat-all feasts, Tabernacles for consulting the spirits of the air, pyromancy, and other such superstitions to cure the sick, to find animals in the woods, to discover if some enemy has not entered their lands, and for other similar purposes.

[196] Now the Attikamegues are for the most part disabused and undeceived regarding all these cheats of the Demon; part of them have become baptized, and their innocence is delightful. These poor people having learned that the Hiroquois, after having massacred a number of Savages, had designs of exterminating the French, dared not approach our settlements; but finally a squad took the resolution to ascertain in what condition our affairs were. They leave their wives and their children, two days' journey above the stream of the Three Rivers, and come secretly to reconnoitre, to see whether our settlements had not changed masters: having found the French in cheerfulness and health, they leap for gladness; they accost them and leave them at the same time. “Our wives and our children,” they said, “have engaged us to go and bring them as soon as possible to confess, in case the Fathers were still alive: they will be anxious until our return.” They embark again, and in a little while they bring their