

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE TRIBES CALLED THE ATTIGUAMEGUES.

IT seems as if innocence, banished from the majority of the Empires and Kingdoms of the World, had withdrawn into these great forests where these people dwell. Their nature has something, I know not what, of the goodness of the Terrestrial Paradise before sin had entered it. Their practices manifest none of the luxury, the ambition, the avarice, or the pleasures that corrupt our cities. Since Baptism has made them disciples of the Holy Ghost, that Doctor is pleased to be with them; he teaches them, far from the noise of tribunals and of Louvres; he has made them more learned, without books, than any Aristotle ever was with his ponderous volumes.

This year, they came down in [113] three bands, the last consisting of forty Canoes. At three Rivers they met about four hundred Savages, who received them with a neat salute of many arquebus shots. These good Neophytes returned this greeting very skillfully, and then they all entered the Chapel. That was their first visit; and there, for a good quarter of an hour, they returned thanks to God for having brought them to his house. Meanwhile, they had left their canoes and all their little effects on the bank of the great river,—behaving as they do in their great forests where no thief has ever been recognized, taken, or hanged. They found themselves surrounded by a great number of Hurons; and