

CHAPTER XIV.

OF A SPECIES OF CHARM, WHICH THE HURONS USE
TO BRING GOOD FORTUNE.

MOST things that seem at all unnatural or extraordinary to our Hurons are easily accepted in their minds as *Oky*,—that is, things that have a supernatural virtue; and, consequently, they think it lucky to find these, and they keep them as preciously as some impious men in Europe keep charms or amulets which they use to bring them good fortune.

If, for instance, our Hurons while hunting have some difficulty in killing a bear or a stag, and on opening it they find in its head or in its entrails something unusual, such as a stone [109] or a snake, they will say that this is an *Oky*, and that it was what gave the animal such strength, and prevented it from dying; and they will take that stone or snake for a charm, and believe that it will bring them good fortune.

If in a tree, or while digging in the earth, they find a stone of peculiar shape,—which, for instance, is made like a dish, a spoon, or a small earthen vessel,—they will consider their discovery fortunate; for they say that certain Demons, who dwell in the woods, sometimes forget those articles there, and that it is a lucky thing for the person who finds them. They call such things *Aaskouandy*.

They say that those *Aaskouandy*, or charms, some-