

it meets on its way,—trees, bears, and even rocks, without ever deviating from its course, or being stopped by anything. And, on account of this so rare efficacy, they call it the *Oky*, par excellence,—that is, a true Demon; and they believe that those who can kill it, or obtain a piece of it, bring good fortune on themselves.

Our Hurons say that they themselves know nothing of that wonderful Serpent, but that all their knowledge of it is derived from the reports of the Algonquins, who sell to them, at a high price, even a piece so small that it is difficult to make out whether it is wood, leather, or a morsel of flesh or of fish.

However, if I be asked whether in fact these Aaskouandy bring good fortune, I will say that I know nothing about it; but I can assert that I have never observed that they who profess to own those charms are more successful than the others, when they go to trade; and, if they bring back [112] more, it is because they have taken more with them, and often they return poorer than when they started. In the fisheries I do not find that their nets are better filled with fish. In hunting, the most robust, those who run most swiftly, and who are the least indolent, are those who generally come back with the heaviest loads. Often, at play, those who lose the most are those who profess to own some charm that brings good fortune. And there is a proverb among the Hurons themselves that skill, strength, and vigilance are the most powerful Aaskouandy that a man can have.