

CHAPTER V.

THE OJIBWAY TOWN AT LA POINTE.

Congregation of the Ojibways in one town at Pt. Shag-awaum-ik-ong and on La Pointe Island, till their final dispersion into smaller bands and villages—Comprising three generations—They first light their fires on Pt. Shag-awaum-ik-ong—Harassed by the Dakotas and Foxes—They finally locate their town on the Island of La Pointe—Mode of gaining a livelihood—Primitive utensils and weapons—Means used to kill game—Copper mines of Lake Superior not worked by them—Primitive usages, rites, and customs—Severely harassed by their enemies—Dakotas even secure scalps on the Island of their town—Battle of Pt. Shag-awaum-ik-ong and almost total destruction of a Dakota war party—Foxes take four captives on the island—Pursued by the Ojibways—Naval engagement near Montreal River—Destruction of Fox war party—Nature of the warfare between the Ojibways and Foxes—Captives are tortured with fire—Origin of this horrid custom—Tradition of the uncle and nephew.

IN the previous chapter we have gradually traced the Ojibways from the Atlantic coast, to their occupation of the surrounding shores of Lake Superior.

Computing their generations as consisting of forty years each, it is three hundred and sixty years since the main body of this tribe first reached Pt. Sha-ga-waum-ik-ong on the Great Lake, where for many years they concentrated their numbers in one village.¹

They were surrounded by fierce and inveterate enemies whom they denominate the O-dug-aum-eeg (opposite side people, best known at this day as Foxes), and the "A-boin-ug" or (roasters), by which significant name they have ever known the powerful tribe of Dakotas. These two tribes claimed the country bordering Lake Superior, towards the

¹ For the tribes living at Chagouamigon Bay, 1660-1670, see another article in this volume.—N.