

which has been entirely destroyed by the Iroquois. In former times, the Puans were the masters of this Bay, and of a great extent of adjoining country. This Nation was a populous one, very redoubtable, and spared no one; they violated all the laws of nature; they were Sodomites, and even had intercourse with beasts. If any stranger came among them, he was cooked in their kettles. The Malhominis were the only tribe who maintained relations with them; they did not dare even to complain of their tyranny. Those Tribes believed themselves the most powerful in the Universe; they declared war on all Nations whom they could discover, although they had only stone knives and hatchets. They did not desire to have commerce with the French. The Outaouaks [Ottawas], notwithstanding, sent to them Envoys, whom they had the cruelty to eat. This crime incensed all the Nations, who formed a union with the Outaouaks, on account of the protection accorded to them by the latter under the auspices of the French, from whom they received weapons and all sorts of merchandise. They made frequent Expeditions against the Puans, who were giving them much trouble; and then followed Civil wars among the Puans—who reproached one another for their ill-fortune, brought upon them by the perfidy of those who had slain the Envoys, since the latter had brought them knives, bodkins, and many other useful articles, of which they had had no previous knowledge. When they found that they were being vigorously attacked, they were compelled to unite all their forces in one village, where they numbered four or five thousand men; but maladies wrought among them more devastation than even the war did, and the exhalations from the rotting corpses caused great mortality. They could not bury the dead, and were soon reduced to fifteen hundred men. Despite all these misfortunes, they sent a party of five hundred warriors against the Outagamis, who dwelt on the other shore of the lake; but all those men perished, while making that journey, by a tempest which arose. Their enemies were moved by this disaster, and said that the Gods ought to be satisfied with so many punishments; so they ceased making war on those who remained. All these scourges, which ought to have gone home to their consciences, seemed