

of about 6 pouces¹ between the stakes, and by this means the first and second rows do not prevent the enemy from being discovered; but there are neither curtains nor bastions, and, properly speaking, it is a mere fence.

As for their cabins, they are semi-circular at the top. They plant in the ground poles that are as thick as one's leg, and very long, which they join together, by bending the tops; then they tie and fasten them with the bark of the basswood tree, which they use as we do our twine and rope. They afterward interlace cross-pieces, of the thickness of one's arm, between these large poles, which they cover from end to end with the bark of the fir or cedar trees, fastening it to the poles and cross-pieces; at the top they leave an open space, from one end to the other, about two feet wide. It is certain that their cabins are water-tight, and no rain gets in. They are generally from 100 to 130 feet in length, 24 in width, and 20 in height. There is a raised platform on each side, and each family has its own little apartment; there is also a door at each end. Their streets are laid out as in our villages.

The houses of the French are built of wood, the pieces being laid one on the other; but they are roofed with cedar bark. The only houses with board roofs are those of the Jesuits.

It must be borne in mind that four different nations are included under the name of Outaouas. The first is that of the Kiskakons, which means "Cut tails," and it is the most numerous; the second is the Sable nation, so called because it formerly dwelt in a sandy country, its village being situated in a sandy cove, but the Iroquois drove that nation from its lands. The third is the Sinago; and the fourth the Nassauaketoun, that is, "Nation of the Fork," which derives its etymology from the name of the Chief²—or more probably, from the river whence they came, which forms a sort of fork, dividing into three branches. These four nations are allied and friendly to one another, living together in amicable relations; and at present they speak but one language.

¹ The pouce is one-twelfth of the French linear foot, and slightly exceeds the inch of English measure.—Eb.

² See the name Nassawakwet, p. 165, *ante*.—Eb.