

be doubted that this Tribe and that of the Illinois were, not very long ago, one and the same People, in view of the close affinity which is observed between their two Languages. I can tell you of them with more certainty when I go directly among them. As for the rest of the Algonquin Tribes, most of them (if we except those who dwell farthest toward the South) pay very little attention to the Cultivation of the Land, and live almost solely by Hunting and Fishing; they also are seldom settled in one place. Among some of them it is the custom to have a plurality of Wives; but the population, far from increasing, is continually diminishing. There is not even one of these Tribes which counts six thousand souls, and some of them do not number two thousand.

* * * * *

We embarked in the afternoon of the second of July [1721; from Michillimackinac]; for thirty leagues we coasted along a Strip of land which separates Lake Michigan from Lake Superior. There are several places where it is only a few leagues wide, and it is hardly possible to find a more wretched-looking Country; but it ends at a pretty River named *la Manistique* [Manistique], which abounds in fish, especially in Sturgeon. A little farther, bending our course to the South-West, we enter a large Gulf, the entrance to which is bordered with Islands, which is called the *Gulf* or *Bay of the Noquets*. Those Savages form a very small Tribe, who came from the Shores of Lake Superior; of their number there remain only a few Families dispersed here and there, without having any fixed abode.

The Bay of the Noquets is separated from the Great Bay only by the *Islands of the Pouteouatamis*—which, as I have already remarked, are the old-time abode of those Savages. Most of these Islands are heavily wooded; but the only one which is still inhabited is neither the largest nor the finest; there remains on it only a comparatively small Village, where we were compelled, although unwillingly, to pass the night; but we never could refuse this, as the people were so urgent. There is not, moreover, a Tribe in Canada who have been more sincerely attached to the French than they always have been.

On the sixth, we were held back nearly all day by contrary