

war and by the report of cannon, and when their progress alarmed the French, the latter strove to embroil the two nations and spared no effort to induce the Abenakis to compel the English to leave their Country.¹

At that time and in the year 1719, the Renards sent a message to the Abenakis.² This was expressed by a Picture, one side whereof represented several very large and very populous Villages, men and women of tall stature, well-fed children, very fertile fields, woods full of Elk, moose and other wild animals, and finally Rivers teeming with beaver and fish; on the other side of the Picture were represented some small Villages barely visible; the persons observed in them were so emaciated that they could hardly stand; neither fields producing corn could be seen, nor woods full of wild Animals, no Rivers capable of supplying beaver and fish; but only a great Dragon, one-half of which showed out from the side of the Picture and whose open jaws threatened to swallow the wretched little villages.³ The following is the explanation of the Picture:—

“My Brother, thou seest that my country is of vast extent; that it is very fertile in producing grain of all kinds; that my woods and my Rivers supply me abundantly with all sorts of wild animals and with fish. Consequently see how well off I am etc. I learn with regret that thou art reduced to a small area of barren and sterile Land wherein all things necessary for thy subsistence are wanting; that this is the cause of thy leanness and of the death of thy children whom thou canst not rear. But the compassion I feel for thee is greatly increased at the sight of that great Dragon with gaping jaws, ready to devour thee and whose fury thou canst escape only by prompt flight. As I take an interest in everything that concerns thee,

¹The original home of the Abenaki was in the present district of Maine and New Brunswick.—Ed.

²For an account of these overtures, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, pp. 431-436.—Ed.

³For an account of picture writing, see Garrick Mallery's "Picture Writing of the North American Indians," in U. S. Bureau of Ethnology *Report*, 1889-90.—Ed.