

Mons. Boucher, who, about the middle of the seventeenth century, held the situation of governor of Three Rivers, in New France, makes a similar observation. "In general all the Indians possess a sound judgment; and it is seldom that you find among them any who have that stupid and heavy intellect which we perceive among some of our French peasantry. They stand more in awe of a simple reprimand from their parents or chiefs, than in Europe they do of wheels and gibbets."\*

Père Jerome Lallemant, who about the same period resided long as a missionary among the Hurons, thus writes: "Many are disposed to despair of the conversion of this people, from their being prejudiced against them as barbarians; believing them to be scarcely human, and incapable of becoming Christians. But it is very wrong to judge of them in this sort; for I can truly say, that in point of intellect they are not at all inferior to the natives of Europe; and, had I remained in France, I could not have believed that, without instruction, nature could have produced such ready and vigorous eloquence, or such a sound judgment in their affairs, as that which I have so much admired among the Hurons. I admit that their

\* *Histoire Véritable des Mœurs et Productions de la Nouvelle France, &c. par Pierre Boucher, chap. 9. Paris, 1664.*