

LESCARBOT'S ACCOUNT OF THE MICMACS. <sup>o</sup>

Before entering upon a description of these implements, it may be well to consider the habits of our Indians as described in the writings of one of the early voyagers. This will help us much to understand the subject with which we deal. The first exact and extensive account of the Micmacs, and by far the most interesting, is to be obtained from the description of New France written by the old French advocate, Mark Lescarbot, who in 1606 accompanied Poutrincourt to Acadie. He dwelt for some time at Port Royal, now known as Annapolis, which had been founded in the previous year by Pierre du Guast, Comte de Monts. From an English version\* of Lescarbot's rare book, in the library of the late Dr. Akins, I have made some transcripts which follow in the quaint language and spelling of the translator. These extracts will be of great interest to any who are studying the archæology of Nova Scotia, for Lescarbot wrote at the period when iron implements were only beginning to supplant those of stone. Dr. J. B. Gilpin has already given us much information gathered from this writer, but seldom in the latter's language.

Speaking of the dress of the Indians, Lescarbot says they wore "a skin tied to a latch or girdle of leather, which passing between their buttocks joineth the other end of the said latch behind; and for the rest of their garments, they have a cloak on their backs made of many skins, whether they be of otters or of beavers, and one only skin, whether it be of ellan, or stag's skin, bear, or lucerne, which cloak is tied upward with a leather ribband, and they thrust commonly one arm out; but being in their cabins they put it off, unless it be cold.... As for the women, they differ only in one thing, that is, they have a girdle over the skin they have on; and do resemble (without compari-

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\* "Nova Francia: or, the Description Of that Part of New France, Which is one Continent with Virginia.... [by Mark Lescarbot, advocate]. Translated out of the French into English, by P. E. [rondelle]." The Akins copy is bound separately, but it originally formed pp. 795-917 of the second volume of Osborne's *Collection of Voyages and Travels, compiled from the Curious and Valuable Library of the Earl of Oxford*, London, 1745-47, 2 vols., folio, generally called the Harleian Collection of Voyages.