

were to be tortured to death or adopted as brothers, they were required to pass through the ordeal. This, with the Iroquois, consisted in running between a double file of the warriors of the tribe and being beaten by each as he passed. The Acadian Indians had a different system of torture; the captive was held up in the arms of four Indians and then allowed to drop on his back on the ground, and in this way tortured until the circuit of the large wigwam, some thirty or forty feet long, was completed. Sometimes he was beaten with whips, or shaken head downwards. The Squaws always took a great interest in these proceedings, and were more cruel than the men. They seemed to regard the torturing of prisoners as their share in the glory of a victory over the enemy. Where a captive was condemned to death he was mutilated with knives, tortured in every conceivable way, and burnt at the stake; but, if adopted by the tribe, no distinction was ever made between him and the rest. He became, to all intents and purposes, one of themselves, and shared equally with them, as well in the pleasures and abundance as in the misfortunes and privations of the tribe.

When a young Indian considered his acquirements and worldly possessions would admit of it, he generally began to look for a wife. If he was possessed of a canoe, gun and ammunition, spear, hatchet, a *moonodah* or pouch, looking glass, paint, pipe, tobacco, and dice bowl, he was looked upon as a man of wealth, and very eligible for a husband. A squaw who could make pouches, birch dishes, snow shoes, moccasins, string wampum beads, and boil the kettle, was considered a highly accomplished lady. The courtship was extremely simple and short. The lover, after advising with his relations as to the girl he should choose, went to the wigwam where she was, and if he liked her looks, tossed a chip or stick into her lap, which she would take, and after looking at it with well-feigned wonder, if she liked her lover's looks, toss it back to him with a sweet smile. That was the signal that he was accepted; but if she chose to reject him, she threw the chip aside, with a frown. The marriage ceremony varied greatly with different tribes, and with most there was no ceremony at all. It is not known that any special marriage ceremony existed among the Indians of Acadie.

The religious views of the Indians of Acadie were of the most vague and indefinite character. Champlain declares that they had no more religion than the beasts they hunted. But it is certain that they believed in a future state of existence, and that