

I have also done my best to learn their customs and mode of life, and during my stay I visited them in their cabins, to know, and instruct them, and I found them sufficiently tractable, and I often made the little children, who are very bright, stark naked and disheveled, make the sign of the Holy Cross, and I remarked that in all these countries I never saw any humpbacked, one-eyed, or misshapen.

I have always seen them firm in their wish to go with at least four canoes to the trade, if I would guide them: the whole difficulty was that we did not know the way. Yroquet, an Indian known in these countries, who had come there with twenty of his people to hunt beaver, and who took at least five hundred, was never willing to give us any mark to know the mouth of the river. He and several Hurons assured us firmly that it was only ten days' sail to the place of trade, but we were afraid of taking one river for another, and losing our way or dying of starvation in the land.

For three months I had every reason in the world to be satisfied with my people. But the Hurons, having discovered that I talked of taking them to the trade, spread through all the village, where they passed, very evil rumors about me, that I was a great magician: that I had diseased the air in their country and poisoned several: that if they did not soon make way with me that I would set fire to their villages, and make all their children die: in fine, that I was, as they represented, an *Atlanite*—this is their word to signify one who makes sorceries, which they hold in the greatest horror: and, by the way, know that there are many sorcerers who undertake to cure the sick by mummeries and other fancies.¹

In fine, these Hurons have always told them so much evil of the French that they could imagine, in order to divert them from trading with us, that the French were inapproach-

¹ When the Jesuits Brebeuf and Chaumonot attempted a mission among the Neuters in 1640, the same accusations were made against them by Hurons. Relation 1641, p. 75.