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THE ACADIAN INDIANS.

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(From an unpublished History of New Brunswick.)

THE Indians of North America inhabiting the region between the Mississippi, the Atlantic, and the country of the Esquimaux, were divided into eight great families, each speaking a language radically distinct from all the others. Of these, the Algonquins were by far the most numerous; they occupied nearly half of the territory east of the Mississippi, and extended from Labrador to North Carolina. It is to this family that the Indians of New Brunswick belong. When the French first visited Acadie they found it divided between two tribes who differed considerably in language and in their mode of life. The whole of the peninsula of Nova Scotia and the Gulf shore of New Brunswick was occupied by the Souriquois, which was the tribe now known as the Micmacs, while the Etchemins occupied the territory from the river St. John to the Kennebec. The latter tribe are now known as Malicetes, and they call themselves Wabannakai, or Men of the East. There is reason to believe that the Etchemins, or Malicetes, did not originally occupy any portion of New Brunswick, but that they intruded themselves into the territory of the Micmacs about the beginning of the seventeenth century, and gradually spread themselves along the northern coast of the Bay of Fundy and up the river St. John, pressing the Micmacs back to the gulf and the peninsula of Nova Scotia. The Malicetes were a very warlike people, much more so than the Micmacs, and they were generally