

“So soone as we were come neere the towne, a great number of the inhabitants thereof came to present themselves before us, after their fashion, making very much of us: we were by our guides brought into the midst of the towne. They have in the middlemost part of their towne a large square place, being from side to side a good stone cast, whither we were brought, and there with signes were commanded to stay, and so we did: then suddenly all the women and maidens of the towne gathered themselves together, part of which had their armes full of young children, and as many as could came to kiss our faces, our armes, and what part of the bodie soever they could touch, weeping for very joy that they saw us, shewing us the best countenance that possibly they could, desiring us with their signes, that it would please us to touch their children. That done, the men caused the women to withdraw themselves backe, then they every one sate down on the ground round about us, as if we would have shewen and rehearsed some comedie or other shew: then presently came the women againe, every one bringing a fouresquare matte in manner of carpets, and spreading them abroad on the ground in that place, they caused us to sit upon them. That done, the lord and king of the country was brought upon nine or ten men’s shoulders (whom in their tongue they called Agouhanna), sitting upon a great stagge’s skinne, and they laid him downe upon the foresaid mattes neere to the captaine, every one beckning unto us that hee was their lord. This Agouhanna was a man about fiftie yeeres old; he was no whit better apparelled than any of the rest, onely excepted that he had a certaine thing around his head made of the skinnes of hedgehogs\* like a red wreath. He was full of the palsie, and his members shronke together. After he had with certaine signes saluted our captaine and all his companie, and by manifest tokens hid all welcome, he shewed his legges and armes to our captaine, and with signes, desired him to touch them, and so he did, rubbing them with his own hands: then did Agouhanna take the wreath or crowne he had about his head, and gave it unto our captaine; that done they brought before him diverse diseased men, some blinde, some cripple, some lame and impotent, and some so old that the haire of their eyelids came downe and covered their cheekes, and layd them all along before our captaine, to the end they might of him be touched; for it seemed unto them that God was descended and come down from heaven to heale them. Our captaine, seeing the misery and devotion of this poore people, recited the Gospel of St. John, that is to say, ‘In the beginning was the Word, making the signe of the cross upon the poor sick ones, praying to God that it would please him to open the hearts of this poore people, and to make them know our holy faith, and that they might receive baptisme and christendome; that done, he took a service-booke in his hand, and with a loud voice read all the passion of Christ, word by word, that all the standers by might heare him, all which while this poore people kept silence, and were marvellously attentive, looking up to heaven, and imitating us in gestures. Then he caused the men all orderly to be set on one side, the women on another, and likewise the children on another, and to the chiefest of them he gave hatchets, to the other knives, and to the women beads and such other small trifles. Then whereby children were he cast rings, counters and broaches made of tin, † whereat they seemed to be very glad. That done, our captaine commanded trumpets and other musicall instruments to be sounded, which when they heard they were very merie. Then we took our leave and went away; the women seeing that put themselves before to stay us, and brought us out of their meates that they had made readie for us, as fish, pottage, beanes, and such other things, thinking to make us eate and dine in that place; but because the meates were not to our taste we liked them not but thanked them, and with signes gave to understand that we had no neede to eate. When we were out of the towne, diverse of the men and women followed us, and brought us to the toppe of the foresaid mountaine, which wee named Mount Roiall, it is about a quarter of a league from the towne. When as we were on the toppe of it, we might discerne and plainly see thirtie leagues about. On the north side of it there are many hilles to be seene running west and east, and as many more on the south, amongst and betweene the which the countrey is as faire and as pleasant as possible can be seene, being levell, smooth, and very plaine, fit to be husbanded and tilled, and in the midst of those fieldes we saw the river further up a great way than where we had left our boates, where was the greatest and the swiftest fall of water that any where hath beene seene which we could not pass, and the said river as great, wide and large as our sight might discerne, going southwest along three fair and round mountaines that we sawe, as we judged about fifteen leagues from us. Those which brought us thither tolde and shewed us, that in the sayd river there were three such falles of water more as that was where we had left our boates; but we could not understand how farre they were one from another. Moreover

\* Hérissons. † In the original: “Petites bagues et *Agnus Dei* d’étain.”