

that Leif Erikson and his Norse sailors gave to the natives of our shores. These looked with fear and wonder on the dragon ships, the weapons and the white faces of the rough Northmen, and were glad to see them depart. Cartier says of the Indians of the Gulf of St. Lawrence that they were good natured and quiet and would be "easy to convert to Christianity." But this was not so with all. The fierce Iroquois (eer'-o-kwah'), who lived in what is now the State of New York, were warlike and cruel, and frequently made war on the tribes who lived north of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes. These were the Hurons and Algonquins, the former occupying the region north and east of Lake Huron, and the latter, under various names and tribes, the country from the Atlantic Ocean towards the Rocky Mountains. Except the Eskimos (es'ke-mōs'), and the Indians of the Pacific Coast, the Algonquins made up the great mass of the Indians of Canada. The Miamaes and Maliseets, who lived in the Atlantic provinces, were branches of this family. They tilled the soil to some extent; but nearly all lived by hunting and fishing, and on wild fruits. The tribes frequently made war on one another; and the men, when not engaged in fighting, were roaming the forests, hunting and fishing, making rude weapons, or spending their time in feasting, talking, or sleeping. The women's lot was hard. On them fell all the heavy work and drudgery. In many tribes considerable skill was shown in the manufacture of snowshoes and moccasins, canoes from birch bark, and clothing from the skins of animals. Their tools and weapons were of the rudest kind—clubs, tomahawks, hatchets, arrowheads made of stone, the bow and arrow, fish-spears, hooks and lines, knives made from shells or thin slices of stone. The women were skilful in making baskets, ornamental work in quills and feathers, and cups and bowls shaped out of clay. Their houses or wigwams were built in the shape of a cone, with a framework of stakes covered with skins or bark. Often ten or twelve families lived together in long houses covered with bark. The Iroquois, Hurons, and to some extent the Algonquins, lived for mutual protection in large encampments. It is supposed that the word *kanata*, meaning an encampment or settlement such as that found by Cartier at Hochelaga, was used by him as a name for that whole district lying near. But at what time the name CANADA was applied to the whole country is uncertain.