

keeping it. From the month of February to the middle of May, is their great season for hunting beavers, otters, elks, bears, which are very good, and cariboes. This animal is half ass, half stag. If the season is favourable, they live at that time in the midst of plenty, and are as proud as princes and kings; but if it is unpropitious, their case is bad, and they often perish with hunger. The weather is unfavorable for their pursuit when it rains much, without freezing, as they can then hunt neither elk nor beaver: the same happens when much snow falls and does not freeze, for they cannot then take their dogs, because they would sink at every step; this they avoid themselves, by wearing snow-shoes, which enable them to walk on the surface. They cannot, however, move with as much speed as they require, the snow being too soft. Other hindrances occur of the like kind, too long to describe. About the middle of March, the fish begin to spawn, and to ascend the streams from the sea, and this in such multitudes, that they may be said to swarm. Hardly would any one believe, without seeing it: the hand could not fail to catch a fish, if put into the water. Among these fish, the smelt is the first. This is twice or three times as large as our river-smelt. After the smelt comes the herring, about the end of April; and at the same period the wild geese arrive from the south, which are double the size of ours, and make their nests in the islands. Two of their eggs are fully equal to five of the common hen. At the same time the sturgeon and the salmon arrive; and the great gathering of eggs commences in the small islands: for the sea-fowl, which resort thither in great numbers, lay there, and often cover the ground with their nests. From May to the middle of September, they have no care about their food: for the muscels and other shell-fish are on the coast, and the French ships arrive with which they trade. And be sure they know very well how to exact respect and observance; assuming to be hail-fellow with the King, and it is necessary to pay them all the respect they claim. They must have presents, and long speeches, until they have agreed to trade; and when that is settled, they are to be feasted, which done, they will dance, make speeches, and sing *Adesquidez*, *Adesquidez*, which means that they are the good friends, allies, associates, confederates and brothers of the King and the French people. Water-fowl abound; not so the land-birds, except at certain times birds of passage, such as wild Canadian geese, and the white and grey common wild geese. Grey partridges are met with, which have a very fine tail, and are twice the size of ours. Multitudes of wild pigeons are seen, which arrive to eat the raspberries in the month of July; likewise some birds of prey, rabbits and hares.

Our Indians quit the sea-side and the tide-water about the middle of September, and betake themselves to the smaller rivers, where the eels