

praises of holy and devout men, and the consent and approbation of the aborigines of the country.

On the evening of the same day M. De Maisonneuve visited the mountain which had conferred its name upon the Island. He was conducted thither by two old Indians, who, while on the top of the mountain, informed him, that they belonged to a nation which had formerly inhabited this country: "We were," said they, "a very numerous nation, and all those hills that your perceive to the southward and to the eastward were peopled. The Hurons have expelled from them our ancestors, some of whom have been sheltered by the Abénaquis; others have retired to the Cantons of the Iroquois, and a few have remained with their conquerors." The governor requested them to inform their brothers, that they might enter into their ancient possessions—that they should want for nothing—and that they would be in perfect safety from the incursions of their enemies. They promised to do so; but they were unable probably to reassemble the scattered remains of their nation, which might have been that of the *Iroquet*. This incident, in conjunction with the prospect before him, might well awaken feelings of no ordinary interest in the bosom of M. De Maisonneuve. The unbounded track that opened itself to his view, discovered only dark, thick, and deep forests, whose height alone was a proof of their antiquity. Numberless large rivers came down from a considerable distance to water these immense regions. The intervals between them were full of lakes. Four of these measured from two to five hundred leagues in circumference. These sort of inland seas communicated with each other; and their waters, after forming the great Saint Lawrence, considerably increased the bed of the Ocean. Every thing in this rude part of the new world appeared grand and sublime. Nature here displayed such luxuriance and majesty as commanded veneration; and a thousand wild graces, far superior to the artificial beauties of European climates. Here the imagination of a painter or a poet would have been raised, animated, and filled with those ideas which leave a lasting impression on the mind. The inhabitants of this beautiful but solitary scene, were the Montagnez, who inhabited the lower parts of the Saint Lawrence; the Algonquins, who were settled upon its banks, from Quebec to Montreal; the Hurons who were dispersed about the lake that bears that name; and some less considerable nations, who wandered about in the intermediate spaces.

About the period that Champlain arrived in Canada a serious and destructive warfare had broke out betwixt the Algonquins and the Iroquois, a nation whose country was near eighty leagues in length, and more than forty in breadth; and bounded by lakes Erie, Ontario, the river Saint Lawrence, and the countries now known by the names of New York and Pensylvania. Champlain, who ought to have availed himself of the superior knowledge of the Europeans to effect a reconciliation between the Americans, did not even attempt it. He warmly espoused the interests of his neighbours, and often accompanied them in pursuit of their enemy. This error in political sagacity had the fatal consequence of involving the whole French settlements in the disputes of the natives; and none more than the infant establishment of Montreal, which lay open on all sides to the ravages of the Iroquois, who were a bold, crafty, and revengeful race. It is somewhat surprising, that while exposed to the incursions of such enemies, Montreal daily improved in