

## 18 PICTURES FROM CANADIAN HISTORY

the forest for several miles. The well-beaten path led through groves of russet-coloured oaks, under which lay heaps of acorns. Reaching at length a huge bonfire, whose flames and smoke rolled skyward, the Frenchmen found a chief with his followers awaiting them. The manner of the savages was dignified, and their speech of welcome very friendly.

4. After a rest, the groups went on together until they reached Hochelaga. The town was round in shape, and circled by three strong palisades. In the courtyard, the women crowded round, without the least sign of fear.

5. Weeping with joy, they held their babies up to the faces and hands of their white guests, signing them to touch the little ones. While this was going on, the grand chief Agouhanna, who was a great invalid, was carried in and laid on a deerskin. As well as he was able he welcomed the ship's company, showing his poor, palsied limbs, which the Captain stroked and rubbed gently with his hands. At this Agouhanna's face lighted up, and taking off his chief's headdress, with a few gracious words, he presented it to Jacques Cartier.

6. This done, the tribesmen ran and brought in all the sick, the blind, and lame of the village, to be touched. To the simple natives it seemed that the great Manitou himself had come down from heaven to heal them. The white men looked on almost with tears as the Captain did what they wished, and the touching scene was not finished until part of the Gospel of St. John had been recited, and a prayer added that they might soon become Christians.

7. Later on, still with the greatest friendliness, some of the tribe escorted their guests to the top of the near by hill. It was a warm and beautiful autumn day, and before them stretched a noble view.

8. On all sides the slopes were thickly covered with