

hawk. Their defensive armour was a sort of cuirass of light wood, or a buckler of cedar wood. In times of peace, the occupations of the men were chiefly hunting and fishing; and even the labor involved in these was put off, till hunger forced them to take to the woods for game, or the water for fish.

The active *bourgades* or settlements were being constantly broken up, as they were obliged to move from place to place, as the game in the woods or the fish in the streams were either killed or driven away, and those parts of the wilderness had to be left to recover.

Without fixity of habitation there could, of course, be no governmental institutions worthy of the name, and none of the stability in their communities, requisite to security of life and property.

It was the unanimous opinion of those Europeans who first had intercourse with these Indians, that they had no religion as we understand that term; but though no religious worship existed among them, they made habitual offerings to departed or unseen existences, and were great believers in supernatural agencies.

Their *medicine* men pretended and were believed to be able to permit or prevent rain at will; to turn aside thunderbolts; predict events; ensure success in any undertaking; and were held in high estimation accordingly. They also undertook to heal wounds and cure diseases by the use of herbs, administered with superstitious ceremonies to enhance the curative virtues.