

paper could I, with the needful assurance of an accurate historian, state that the Indian Sachem to whom Cartier, as he skirted the Baie de Chaleur in July, 1534, sent the present of a red hat was Membertou. Then, amidst that tumultuous scene of savage welcome which occurred a few days later when three-hundred Mic-Mac Indians greeted the landing of Cartier's men at Tracadegush Point, I might place the striking figure of the young chief. And yet only the desire to be strictly accurate prevents me from so introducing the subject of this monograph. He saw Cartier in July, 1534; he was a married man of family at that time; according to Lescabot, the versatile historian of Port Royal, he "was a great captain from his youth; and he is portrayed by the Jesuit, Biard, as "the greatest, most renowned and most redoubted savage that ever lived in the history of man." These are the facts. What more natural then or probable that he was already in command of the band of Mic-Macs who gave Cartier such an effusive welcome at the head of the Bay Chaleur? Grand Sagamore of the entire Souriquois tribe from Gaspé to Cape Sable he may not yet have been; only a Sagamoreshin or Sagamore in training for the office, son of some noted Sachem, and already laying the foundation of his future greatness.

Of the seventy years intervening between that sultry day in July, 1534, and that greater day in Mic-Mac history when Membertou, now a centenarian, led his painted warriors to successful battle with the Armouchiquois of Cape Cod, there is of course no direct record. We can only conjecture biographical details; basing our surmises on our knowledge of tribal life among the Mic-Macs of that period, and picking out our picture from the meagre information