

the possession of their meagre belongings; often at war, even among themselves, and their very slumbers haunted with an ever present shadow of dread; yet, withal, knowing no better state to envy, dimly looking forward to some distant future perfection, rudely imagined, in the "Happy hunting grounds"; regarding their own exploits in defence or retaliation—which had not yet paled before the greater "medicine" of the whites—as the highest expression of *good*.

The Iroquois, the Hurons and their congeners had raised themselves a little higher in the scale, adding to the uncertain pursuit of the chase the surer product of the field: they sometimes cultivated the ground, it would appear, on a pretty extensive scale, preserved their corn in granaries, and lived in permanent walled villages, situated with reference to the fertility of the soil. The Hurons alone, inhabiting, in this way the shores of Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, were, as we have already seen, estimated by Father Sagard at between 30,000 and 40,000 souls. Pictures of the same mode of life are found in the account of the Canadian expedition of the winter of 1666 against the Mohawks, to the south of Lake Champlain, and in Cartier's quaint and simple narrative of his first visit to Hochelaga (now the city of Montreal), which he says was surrounded with "goodly and large cultivated fields, full of such corn as the country yieldeth. It is even as the millet of Brazil, as great and somewhat bigger than small peason, wherewith they live even as we do with our wheat." The Iroquois, though thus more advanced, were in customs and modes of thought essentially one with the other Indians, and used their greater resources as a means of waging more savage and effectual war. They were a scourge to the surrounding nations, and more especially hostile to their relatives the Hurons, the Iroquets—is the Indians found by Cartier inhabiting the banks of the St. Lawrence were afterwards called—and the whole race of the Algonkins. These peoples found themselves, at the time of the arrival of the Europeans, cruelly oppressed by the wars of the Iroquois, scarcely able to hold their own, and would, in the natural course of events, have been absorbed or destroyed by them, or gradually forced to retreat into the hyperborean region. The French, with whom we have more particularly to deal, like the Spaniards, constantly used the christianization and civilization of the natives as a powerful argument in favour of their exploring enterprises, and