

warehouses at Quebec, from which the inhabitants of the other towns are supplied with such commodities as they want.

There is no difference between the pirates that scour the seas, and the Canada merchants, unless it be this, that the former sometimes enrich themselves all of a sudden by a good prize ; and that the latter cannot make their fortune without trading for five or six years, and that without running the hazard of their lives. I have known twenty little pedlars that had not above a thousand crowns stock when I arrived at Quebec, in the year 1683, and when I left that place had got to the tune of twelve thousand crowns. It is an unquestioned truth, that they get fifty per cent. upon all the goods they deal in, whether they buy them up upon the arrival of the ships at Quebec, or have them from France, by way of commission : but over and above that, there are some little gaudy trinkets, such as ribbands, laces, embroideries, tobacco-boxes, watches, and an infinity of other baubles of iron-ware, upon which they get a hundred and fifty per cent all costs clear.

As soon as the French ships arrive at Quebec, the merchants of that city, who have their factors in the other towns, load their barks with goods in order to transport them to these other towns. Such merchants as act for themselves at Trois Rivières, or Montreal, come down in person to Quebec to market for themselves, and then put their effects on board of barks, to be conveyed home. If they pay for their goods in skins, they buy cheaper than if they made their payments in money or letters of exchange ; by reason that the seller gets considerably by the skins when he returns to France. Now, you must take notice, that all these skins are bought up from the inhabitants, or from the savages, upon which the merchants are considerable gainers. To give you an instance of this matter ; a person that lives in the neighbourhood of Quebec carries a dozen of martin skins five or six fox skins, and as many skins of wild cats, to a