

tory in which it was domesticated, as additional evidence of the extent of the intercourse which prevailed among the native tribes of this country.

PLATTER OR DICE.

The second in the list of games given by Father Brebeuf is that which he calls "platter." Writers who describe the habits of the Indians at the north have much to say concerning this game. According to Lescarbot, Jacques Cartier saw it played, and recorded his observations.³⁶

Sagard Theodat³⁷ devotes considerable space to it. Both Father Brebeuf, in his Relation in 1636, and Father Lalemant, in his Relation in 1639, give long accounts of the game, the causes for its being played, the excesses in gambling to which it leads, and the methods which prevail in its practice. In Perrot's³⁸ work there is a good description of the game, although not so full as his account of lacrosse, from which we have already quoted. La Potherie and LaHontan barely mention it. Lafitau³⁹ in his searching analysis of the manuscripts deposited at Quebec, while seeking for traces of his theory that a resemblance existed between the habits of the Indians and those of the ancient dwellers in eastern Europe, found an unusual quantity of material bearing on this particular topic, which he has reproduced in his book. Charlevoix⁴⁰, in a letter dated June 8, 1721, says, "As I was returning through a quarter of the Huron village, I perceived a number of these Indians, who seemed much heated at play. I

³⁶ Histoire de la Nouvelle France par Marc Lescarbot, Nouvelle Edition, Paris 1866, Vol. III, p. 754.

³⁷ Histoire du Canada, etc., par Gabriel Sagard Theodat; Nouvelle Edition, Paris, 1866, Vol. I, pp. 243-244.

³⁸ p. 50.

³⁹ Mœurs des Sauvages Américains, etc., par le P. Lafitau, Paris, 1724, Vol. II, p. 339.

⁴⁰ Vol. III, pp. 260-1.