

He found there also vines and grapes, pumpkins and other fruits; "from all of which there is sufficient reason to conclude that it is a pleasant and fruitful country, and that the natives are well disposed, if they are well treated; although they are very changeable, and of the same general character as all the savages in the north. They have no religion whatever, nor any divine worship, much less any political government, except that they have their chiefs whom they all call Sackmos, or Sagimos."

The Indian tradition of the first arrival of Hudson has also come down to us: "A long time ago, when there was no such thing known to the Indians as a people with a white skin, some Indians who had been out a-fishing, and where the sea widens, espied at a great distance something remarkably large, swimming or floating upon the water, and such as they had never seen before. They immediately, returning to the shore, apprised their countrymen of what they had seen, and pressed them to go out with them and discover what it might be. These together hurried out, and saw to their great surprise the phenomenon, but could not agree what it might be; some concluding it either to be an uncommon large fish, or other animal, while others were of the opinion it must be some very large house. It was at length agreed among those who were spectators, that as this phenomenon moved toward the land, whether or not it was an animal, or anything that had life in it, it would be well to inform all the Indians on the inhabited islands of what they had seen, and put them on their guard. Accordingly, they sent runners and watermen off to carry the news to their scattered chiefs, that these might send off in every direction for the warriors to come in. These arriving in numbers, and themselves viewing the strange appearance, and that it was actually moving toward the river or bay, concluded it to be a large canoe in which the great Mannitto¹ himself was, and that he was probably coming to visit them. By this time the chiefs of the different tribes were assembled on York Island, and were counselling on the manner in which they should receive the Mannitto on his arrival. Every step had been taken to be provided with a plenty of meat for a sacrifice; the women were required to prepare the best of victuals; idols or images were examined and put in order; and a great dance was supposed not only to be an agreeable entertainment for the Mannitto, but might, with the addition of a sacrifice, contribute toward appeasing him, if he was angry with them. The conjurers were also set to work, to determine what the meaning of this phenomenon was, and what the result would be. Both to these, and the wise men of the nation,

¹ The Supreme Being.