

Chief dies, the matron who possesses the most authority after a conference with those of her own tribe, announces to the village his successor. The Chief elect is presented, at once, proclaimed and acknowledged, and afterwards presented to the other villages. No satisfactory information can be obtained from the Indians in general, touching their origin, unless it is faintly traced to the origin of mankind. The tradition of the Great Hare is referred to by Charlevoix in his journal. He also refers to another tradition in which there is mention made of another deity who opposed the desings of the Great Hare; this he thinks of foreign extraction, and so does Jones, the author of Indian Traditions, from the circumstance that the opposing god is called the Great Tyger, which animal is not found in Canada.

Vestiges of all the ancient religions were found in America, and the words Alleluia, the Allelujah of the Hebrews, and Ye-ho-wah, Ye-ho-vah, which last word, says Clarke, is probably the true pronunciation of the ancient Hebrew word, Jehovah.

The Iroquois had sacred fire and vestals, Virgins, consecrated to their gods. The people treated them with great respect. Cartier saw at Ochelaga Lodges full of them. The Iroquois also, as well as the Hurons, had Hermits. Lafitau saw one of them at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal. He was a Huron; he had been made a slave by the Iroquois who spared his life; he afterwards committed a crime and then took refuge at the village of La Prairie de