

was afterwards extended to the river. In September, Cartier ascended the St. Lawrence as far as the island of Orleans. He was, however, here opposed in his progress by a body of Indians, who probably considered the white men as intruders, although in other respects he was received with generous hospitality by the natives. In order to discourage his advance into the interior, they made him bountiful presents of corn and fish. Finding this of no avail, the Indians resorted to conjury, supposing they might terrify him into compliance. A circle was drawn upon the sand by a prominent sachem, and the savages, who had collected thick around it, being ordered to retire, the French mariner was beckoned within this circle. A speech having been concluded, Cartier was presented two or three small children, amid the yells of the surrounding savages. Finding these arts also unavailing, the chief resorted to a species of deception, which is now in common practice among the Indians. They dressed three men like devils, wrapped them in black and white dogskins, their faces were painted black as coal, while they had horns on their head more than a yard long.* These Indian jugglers having performed certain feats, declared that the Great Spirit had uttered maledictions against the French, and that there was so much ice and snow in the country, certain death would await the white men if they advanced. The ships of Cartier having been safely moored, he advanced up the St. Lawrence, notwithstanding the opposition of the savages, and soon arrived at the principal village on the island of Hochelaga, where Montreal now stands. That region he found in the possession of a branch of the Wyandot or Huron tribe of Indians, who had driven out the preceding inhabitants, and established themselves in their place.

Having climbed the hill at the base of which lay the village, he beheld spread around him a gorgeous scene of woods and waters, promising glorious visions of future opulence and national strength. That hill he called Mont-royall, and this name was afterwards extended to the island of Montreal. At that period, more than three centuries ago, the village of

* Hakluyt, vol. 3, page 269.