

about Lakes Erie and Ontario by the tribes of the Iroquoian stock, whose habitats were on both sides of these lakes.

At the time the first attempts were made to plant settlements along the Atlantic coast south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Micmacs, called by the early explorers the Souriquois, were then inhabiting Nova Scotia and a part of the gulf coast of New Brunswick, also the neighboring islands. Their first contact with Europeans was probably at a very early date, as the Basque fishermen were in that region before Cartier's visit in 1534. However, continued intercourse with the whites did not begin until 1604, when Sieur de Monts attempted to plant a colony at Port Royal.

The French immigrants were kindly received by the natives, and allowed to settle on their lands without objection, and friendly relations were established between the two peoples which, notwithstanding the misfortunes of the colony, were maintained throughout, with a few slight interruptions. This friendship was largely due to the numerous marriages of Frenchmen with Micmac women. The history of these Indians for the next eighty years consists chiefly of wars with other tribes and the assistance they rendered the French in their contests with the English. The extinction of the Beothuks was largely due to the attacks of the Micmacs. The latter were, however, brought under the influence of the Catholic missionaries at an early day. The tribe seems to have been one tenacious of life, for, notwithstanding the vicissitudes through which they were forced to pass because of their exposed position, it appears from the later reports of the Canadian Department of Indian Affairs that they still number over three thousand persons—a thousand more than Biard's estimate in 1611. They are located in the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; nine-tenths of them being Roman Catholics. It is said that these Indians and some allied tribes had in use at the time they were first visited by Europeans a system of symbolic writing by means of which they were enabled to communicate with one another.

Other tribes of the Maritime Provinces are the Malecites, or Etchimis of early writers, and the Passamaquoddies, the two forming a sub-group of the Abnaki; to which sub-group the name Etchimin has been more correctly applied. These tribes formed an early attachment for the French, chiefly through the influence of their missionaries, and, with the other Abnaki, carried on an almost constant war with the English colonists until the fall of the French power in America. Although the other Abnaki tribes, as the whites encroached upon them, gradually withdrew to Canada, the Penobscots, Passamaquoddies, and Malecites remained in their ancient homes. The Abnaki, numbering some 400, are now at St. Francis and Beancour in Quebec; the Malecites, numbering 800, in several villages in New Brunswick and Quebec; while the remnants of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes have homes in Maine.

The vast extent of territory embraced in the Labrador Peninsula has been thinly peopled in the past by semi-nomadic bands of Montagnais, Nascapees, Mistassins, and Swamp Crees, in addition to the Eskimo along the coast. The Montagnais group with whom the French came in contact at an early day, having joined Champlain in his first expedition against the Iroquois, was a confederacy of cognate tribes rather than a single integral body. These were the