

he said never to intermix by marriage with their protestant neighbours. Among themselves they still converse in the French language which is corrupted not only by patois, but by words derived from the Indians and English. Although the males are not generally ignorant of the English language, there are but few of their females or children who can understand it. As a people they are moral in their habits, simple and economical in their expenditures, cheerful in disposition, and contented, and happy. The Abbé Raynal says, that in 1749 they computed as much as 60,000 head of horned cattle, and that most families had several horses, though the tillage was carried on by oxen. They bred a great deal of poultry of all kinds, which made a variety in their food, for the most part wholesome and plentiful. The common drink was beer and cider, to which they sometimes added rum. Their usual cloathing was the produce of their flax, or the fleeces of their own sheep. With these they made common linens, and coarse cloths. If any of them had a desire for articles of greater luxury, they drew them from Annapolis or Louisburg, and gave in exchange corn, cattle or furs. The neutral French had nothing else to give their neighbours, and made still fewer exchanges among themselves, because each separate family was able, and had been used, to provide for its own wants. They therefore knew nothing of paper currency, which was so common throughout the rest of North America. Even the small quantity of specie, which had slipped into the country, did not inspire that activity in which consists its real value. Their manners were of course extremely simple. Whatever little differences arose from time to time among them, were amicably adjusted by their elders. All their public acts were drawn up by their pastors, who had likewise the keeping of their wills, for which and their religious services, the inhabitants paid the twenty-seventh part of their harvest. Every misfortune was relieved, as it were, before it could be felt, without ostentation on the one hand, and without meanness on the other. It was in short a society of brethren, every individual of which, was ready to give, and to receive what he thought the common right of mankind. As soon as a young man came to the proper age, the community built him a house, broke up the lands about it, and supplied him with all the necessaries of life for a twelvemonth. Here he received the partner whom he had chosen, and who