

and the missions ten years later culminated in the bloody conflict of St. Louis and the terrible tragedy of St. Ignace, in which Brebeuf and his companion perished. Then followed the building of Ste. Marie II, on Christian Island, to which the mission was removed, and the final dispersion took place in 1650-1. In commemoration of these thrilling events, and in honor of these devoted pioneer missionaries, the corner stone of the Memorial Church at Penetanguishene was laid in 1886, and the edifice erected, in a great measure, as a national memorial.

An interregnum of one hundred and ten years followed, during which the "land of the Huron," relegated to the wild beasts of the forest only, when the silence and desolation were broken by an occasional Iroquois hunter, was devoid of history and almost without tradition. The conqueror, the exultant Iroquois, in turn gave way to the Ojibway of the north by whom he was gradually replaced, and who ruled lords of this domain till the conquest and the advent of the British upon the scene in 1759, which changed the course of savage empire. Five years later Alexander Henry, the famous traveller and fur-trader, passed over these waters with his savage captors, in 1764, on his way to Niagara and liberty when the Indian braves made a treaty of amity with Sir William Johnson.

CHAPTER II

THE BEGINNING OF THE BRITISH REGIME

A new era of development begins to dawn on Penetanguishene Bay, which prepares to heed the call of civilization. During the autumn of 1793 Governor Simcoe, who had served under General Haldimand, and knew of its existence and possibilities from the Royal Engineer, with Macdonnell, his secretary, and suite, visited the bay, coming by way of the Humber River, portaging over the Oak Ridges to the west branch of Holland River, down this river to Lake Simcoe, across the lake to the Narrows, through Lake Couchiching and down the Severn River to Matchedash Bay, thence to Prince William's (Beausoleil) Island with a view to establish a naval and military station as a base of supplies and for defence. His deputy surveyor, Aitken, made a complete survey of the harbor and presented a full report in November of the same year. In 1798 the bay and islands were purchased from the Chippeways, under Treaty No. 5, for one hundred and