
Q U E E N ' S H O T E L , M O N T R E A L

The shrewd Champlain was quick to recognize in the Royal island the gateway to the wilderness of whose wealth he had already some hints from the Indians.

The travel in those days was almost entirely by canoes, and here, at the confluence of the Ottawa with the St. Lawrence, he could hail the trappers as they dropped down stream and trade with them.

But the white man was suspicious, the Indian treacherous, and traded with a bow at his back, a hatchet at his hip, and the white man's bayonet at his breast, mutely urging him to be good.

Only the faintest hint of what happened in the conquest of the Iroquois country can be given here, but one tragedy stands out in the history of Montreal that is well worth writing down.

In 1661 Governor Maisonneuve, having learned that the Iroquois contemplated a concerted attack for the purpose of wiping out the white settlement, organized a military fraternity known as "Soldiers of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph," who were charged with the defence of the island.

Adam Dollard, a young French officer, eager for an opportunity to distinguish himself and make his people forget a certain scandal he had left as a legacy, took sixteen equally adventurous companions and stationed his little company in an old abandoned fort on the banks of the Ottawa, down which the enemy was expected to descend to the slaughter.

The first canoe party was surprised and slain by the seventeen soldiers in the frail fort. Then came an ava-



The Chateau de Ramezay.