

the interpreter was sure to make his appearance. Sometimes they were Europeans, sometimes Indians, sometimes half-breeds. They were of all grades of society, from the lowest to the highest—bushrangers, men of science, artists, warriors, preachers of the Gospel. Some served occasionally, as circumstances demanded; other were regularly employed and paid by the authorities; others freely devoted their hardly gained knowledge of the Indian tongues to the cause of evangelization, of science or of trade.

THE OLD WATER COURSES.

In the January, 1890, number of *Canadiana* reference is made to the lake on the Lachine flats and the canal system supposed to have existed between Lachine and Montreal. The researches of Mr. Robert C. Douglas, as stated in the March, 1890, number of this publication, showed that this proposed canal system had not been fully completed. These local questions have an interest for archaeologists, and as each one contributes his mite, the pieces are collected until, like a ripped manuscript gathered out of the waste paper basket, the facts which the original contained are brought out, although one portion might have led to a doubtful conclusion. If we speculate it is with the hope that we may at last arrive at the truth.

Looking at Champlain's map of the Island of Montreal, which is to be found in his narrative, it will be noticed that a large portion of the flats below the Lachine Rapids, near Cote St. Paul, were covered with water. Admitting that this visit was a hurried one, covering but a day, and that the incident of the loss of a canoe and one of his men may have disturbed the explorer, still anything stated by Champlain deserves careful attention as being *prima facie* correct. Were the date of his visit when the river was dammed by the ice, it might have been supposed that these flats were