

the confluence of the St. Lawrence with its tributaries the Saguenay, the St. Maurice, and the Richelieu suggested appropriate sites for Tadoussac, Three Rivers, and Sorel; and the Lachine rapids, which made Ville Marie the head of ocean navigation, formed a natural resting-place and barter-ground. At all these and similar sites Indian settlements more or less permanent had doubtless existed from time immemorial. The utility of the great river St. Lawrence as a means of communication led for many years to the location of dwellings almost exclusively along the shore; the story of the inland settlements belongs to a later time and relates chiefly to the immigration of the Loyalists from the United States after the Revolutionary war. Talon the intendant (1665-1672)¹ indeed established inland villages, Bourg Royal, Bourg La Reine and Bourg Talon near Quebec, but they did not prosper; the settlers preferred a frontage on the river. Accordingly we have the characteristically deep and narrow farms which are so marked a feature of the Laurentian settlements in French Canada.² The efforts of Talon were more successful in persuading the officers of the famous Carignan-Salières regiment³ upon its disbandment after a successful Indian campaign to accept generous grants of land on the river Richelieu, as also on the St. Lawrence between Three Rivers and Montreal. The towns and villages that have since grown on the shores of the Richelieu—Sorel, Saint Ours,

¹The Intendant in New France was a kind of business manager for the King, a combined Minister of Finance, Justice and Police, the most important man in the colony, next to the governor, upon whom, to tell the truth, he was a spy, or at least a check. The governor, with his big titles, was military commander and representative of the King.

²Parkman, in *The Old Régime* (p. 234), mentions that the line of dwellings along the shore was called a *côte*: "a use of the word," he says, "peculiar to Canada, where it still prevails." But I cannot find that the word *côte* has ever been applied to river settlements in the province. The word is very common in the vicinity of Montreal even to this day. Côte St. Paul, Côte des Neige, Côte St. Antoine (now Westmount), Côte St. Louis and Petite Côte are well known suburbs. The characteristic feature of these côtes is not their proximity to or alignment along the river front; on the contrary they are all at some considerable distance from the river. Their characteristic feature seems to be their situation on some prominent slope or undulation of land affording a natural drainage and good soil. Near Quebec where côtes also abound the same restricted use of the word to the slopes of Cape Diamond as to the slopes of Mount Royal near Montreal, is to be observed.

³This was the first body of regular troops in Canada. It had gained renown in the Turkish wars and was brought to this country by De Tracy.