

bacco-tribe (*gens de petun*) ; and in what is now the township of Sunnidale, near the Nottawasaga River, there are the tangible remains of an extensive Huron earthenware manufactory.

The enemies dreaded by the Hurons were the Iroquois, five confederated nations known among the French by that name, and chiefly occupying at the time what is now the State of New York. "They come like foxes, they attack like lions, and fly away like birds." So it was commonly said of the Iroquois.—Charlevoix Reports (*ut supra* i. 170). These were the plague of the Hurons. Ever and anon they made their raid, plundering and burning villages, slaughtering the inhabitants, robbing the traders of their packs of furs, *en route* for Montreal by the Ottawa waters. In the years 1648-9, they succeeded in reducing the region round Lake Simcoe to the condition of a desert ; and from the blow then inflicted, the country, as an Indian country, never recovered.

So early as 1615, twenty-two soldiers were sent up by Champlain from Quebec for the protection of French interests and to give confidence to the friendly Hurons. At the same time a mission began to be organized in this locality, first by the Recollets or Reformed Franciscans, and then by the Jesuits ; and here some of the members of the latter society, in their heroic effort to Christianize in their peculiar way the native population, underwent dreadful sufferings, and in several instances a most cruel death. After shifting its headquarters from place to place on the mainland, and thence at length to the neighbouring island of St. Joseph—known to the passing tourist now as Christian Island—the mission was withdrawn in 1650 ; and some hundreds of the converts followed their spiritual instructors to the vicinity of Quebec, where their descendants still inhabit the villages of Lorette. With profound regret the missionaries abandoned a country which they rightly regarded as a key to a vast