

MEMORIAL VOLUME.

longer resorted to as in years by gone; and so the word Toronto, as applied to it, dropped out of use.

The spot on Lake Ontario which thus by some happy fortune received the name, had been long a well-frequented landing-place for trading and hunting parties when on their way to the former populous Toronto district.

The name Toronto was thus perpetuated; and although curiously fated to be lost again for awhile, and again to be recovered, it continues to this day, an appellation not without distinction, full of memories connected with its earlier use, and suggestive of the chequered antecedents of the locality which it at present designates.

CHAPTER III.

PREVIOUS HISTORY OF THE SITE OF YORK (CONTINUED). SIGNIFICATION OF THE NAME APPLIED TO THE LOCALITY.

AS to the signification of the term "Toronto"—one very definite tradition which has come down to us, is that it is "place of meeting"—place of concourse, or rendezvous. That this is a near approximation to the sense of the expression may be gathered thus: Gabriel Sagard, a Franciscan missionary, who collected his information in the neighbourhood of Lake Simcoe, just before the time of Denonville's despatches, gives in his "Dictionary of the Huron Language," published at Paris in 1632, the word "Toronton" as signifying in French "*beaucoup*," in English "much, or plenty;" and the instance of its use which he adds shews that it was applied to men as well as things; thus: "*Toronton S. ahouyo*"—he killed many S.—Somontouans or Seneca Iroquois, we will suppose.

The word "Toronton" probably first struck the ear of voyageurs and traders, uttered with energy by their Huron guides and companions when on their way to the interior Huron country, repeated again and again, to denote the great populousness of that region. The sonorous term would be caught up by the French and converted by them into a local name. It served to denote to them *là où il y a beaucoup de gens*—a place where numerous allied and well-disposed tribes did congregate.