

HANDY GUIDE

TO THE

City of Montreal

I

General facts as to the City of Montreal

MONTREAL'S geographical position is one of the most advantageous and, for a close observer, it is no wonder it became the chief city of Canada by its importance, its population and its business. The last census (1901) quotes Montreal with its suburbs at the 350,000 mark. But Montreal is moreover the financial and manufacturing centre of Canada, and also its chief port.

Montreal is situated on an island formed by the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers and on the site of the ancient village of Hochelaga, visited by Jacques-Cartier in 1535. A trading post was established here by the French 250 years ago ; and this was the last place yielded by the French to the English in 1760. For many years it was the chief centre of the fur trade.

Montreal's geographical position. — It is unrivalled Montreal, at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa ; at the point where the St. Lawrence ceases to be navigable for ocean ships, and where that great river affords a gigantic water-power ; at the meeting point of the two races that divide Canada, and in the centre of a fertile plain, nearly as large as all England, has guarantee for future greatness, not based on human legislation,