

disposition, mixing in years to come with the hunters and trappers to an extent which is fully illustrated by the Half-breed population of 1870 and 1900. In British Columbia and the far north the Indians were a decidedly inferior race to those of other parts of the continent—a condition probably due to the milder climate and to the lack of necessity for severe exertion in order to obtain food. Under pioneer white auspices they became greatly degraded though subject, in later days, to Christianizing influences. The Flatheads, the Haidas, the Mitkas, and the now almost extinct Chinooks, comprised the chief divisions and the most of these were akin to the Chippewayans of the plains of the east.

THE IROQUOIS AND THE FRENCH

Meanwhile, the French settlers scattered along the banks of the St. Lawrence, in the seventeenth century, knew nothing of these far away tribes who hunted the buffalo on the boundless prairies, or erected their *tepees* upon the banks of some great salmon stream on the Pacific slope of the unknown Rockies. The Frenchmen had quite enough to face in the savages more immediately surrounding them and the deeds of heroism, on both sides of the desultory warfare which followed the death of Champlain, constitute a most impressive picture. Montreal was founded in 1642 by Le Royer de la Dauversière and Jean Jacques Olier, and was governed in its earlier days by the iron hand and courage of De Maisonneuve. It formed one more object of attack to the Iroquois who had, of late, been gaining strength and confidence and were now supplied with fire-arms by grace of the Dutch traders at Fort Orange. The annals of the twenty years which followed make an epic poem in the endurance, the courage, the constancy, of the little white population of Ville Marie—as Montreal was called—and of the other fortified settlements of New France.

Up and down the rivers floated the crowded canoes of a merciless enemy, every path through the forest seemed to be a ready road