

ticular, so far as the name and initial germ of their City are concerned, it is, as it were, the very "hole of the pit whence they were digged."

Our Lake Simcoe is not, of course, for a moment to be compared with the Swiss lake, in point of natural scenery, but it is curiously connected with the first beginnings of Canadian history ; it even happens to have been, in its day, a Lake of Four Cantons, having been encircled and, in a manner, possessed by the Hurons or Wyandots, a people that consisted of four remarkable confederated nations, or cantons, as the French expressed it.

These associated "savages" appear to have adopted the habits of a sedentary people to a degree beyond what was usual with the northern aborigines generally. Populous villages were to be met with everywhere throughout their domain, rudely fortified in some instances, and surrounded with fields of maize. "The people of the Huron language," says Charlevoix, (*Historical Journal of Travel in North America*, p. 166.) "have always applied themselves more than others to cultivating the land. They have also extended themselves much less. Hence, first, they are better settled, better lodged, and better fortified, and there has always been among them more policy and a more distinguished form of government ; and, second, their country was more peopled, though they never allowed polygamy." Old clearings, traces of cultivation, fragments of earthenware, stone hatchets, chisels, pipes, arrow-heads, constantly exhumed to the present day, and, more than all, numerous extensive burial places, attest the populousness of the Huron country round Lake Simcoe, and the comparative civilization of its occupants at some period in the past. Neighbouring tribes, west, east and north, were allies of the Huron confederacy and acted, on occasion, in concert with it. (One allied nation in the vicinity cultivated and traded in Tobacco, and hence was known as the To-