

THE STORY OF THE HURONS.

it impossible to remain long in any one place; the land under cultivation, owing to the fact that repeated crops were taken from the same soil, soon became barren; the fuel supply gave out; the encroachments and harassments of the hostile Iroquois rendered a location untenable; any or all of these might at one time or another make it necessary to move from one place to another.

Most of the villages were situated in elevated places, because of their greater strategic value, and those on the southern and eastern fronts were strongly fortified by palisades as protection against invasion.

To the west of the Huron country was the country of the Petuns, called the Tobacco Nation, because they made a special feature of tobacco growing. In Southern Ontario from the Niagara to the Detroit River were the Neuters or Neutrals, so called because in the long conflicts between the Iroquois and the Hurons they remained aloof and took no part with one side or the other.

Champlain remained in the Huron country until September 1st, when the