

course between the French and these tribes for some time. But in 1654, on petition of one of the chiefs to have the French make a settlement among them, Father Simon Lemoine went to Onondaga. Being assured safe conduct, he went by way of the St. Lawrence route; the first Frenchman, not a captive, to make that trip.

In explanation of the friendly overtures of the western Iroquois, we find that at this time they were threatened by other Indian nations to the west and south of them. To the south they were in conflict with the Andastogues, who had already driven some of the Cayugas out of their country, and compelled them to take refuge on Lake Ontario, in the neighborhood of the Bay of Quinte. From the west the Cat and Neutral Indians were on the eve of attacking them. The Iroquois, therefore, not only desired to make peace with the French, but to obtain their assistance against their nearer enemies. Under these circumstances Lemoine made his journey. From his journal, given in the "Jesuit Relation" for that year, we obtain a short account of his trip up the river.*

"On the 17th day of July, 1654, St. Alexis day, we set out from home with that great saint of many travels, toward a land unknown to us." Thus, while the ancestors of most of us were eagerly following the first movements of Cromwell's Protectorate, while that great man was preparing to meet his first Parliament, in the wilds of America a French Jesuit missionary was making the first ascent of the Upper St. Lawrence.

"On the 18th, following constantly

*The quotations from the "Jesuit Relations" are from the newly published edition, edited by R. G. Thwaites, and published by Burrows Bros., of Cleveland, Ohio.

the course of the River St. Lawrence, we encountered nothing but breakers and impetuous falls, thickly strewn with rocks and shoals." This refers to the region of the Cascades, Cedars, and Coteau Rapids, between Lake St. Louis and Lake St. Francis. "The 19th. The river continues to increase in width and forms a lake, pleasant to the sight and eight or twelve leagues in length." "The 20th. We see nothing but islands of the most beautiful appearance in the world, intercepting here and there the course of this most peaceful river. The land toward the north appears to us excellent. Toward the rising sun is a chain of high mountains, which we named after Saint Margaret." Those who know the western end of Lake St. Francis will recognize this as a charmingly simple and accurate description of that portion of the river. As yet, none of the lakes or rapids on the course is given a name. Only the chastely blue mountains, which form so fitting a background for the peaceful beauties of water and island, are named after St. Margaret. But the name is given at too long a range. Even that of "St. Mary," bestowed later, will not endure. Those nearer to them, doubtless finding them less ethereal and saintly, will name them later the Adirondacks. On the 22nd they encountered the Long Sault Rapids, though yet unnamed, and these, he says, "compel us to shoulder our little baggage and the canoe that bore us." "On the other side of the rapids, I caught sight of a herd of wild cows, pasturing in a very calm and leisurely manner. Sometimes there are seen four or five hundred of them together in these regions." These were evidently not buffaloes, but caribou deer, because, as described later, they would not answer to the buffalo, and almost all the other