

launched on Lake Ontario by La Salle, and in 1679 another of 60 tons was launched on Lake Eric, under the superintendence of the same enterprising Frenchman, the first precursors of those fleets by which their waves are now ploughed in every direction.

The Lakes, from this period began to be somewhat better known, but it appears, from the statements of Charlevoix, that things continued nearly in this position in 1720 and 1721, the French being hardly able to maintain their posts at these scattered points against the hostile tribes of Indians, that there was little or no cultivation in their neighbourhood, and that, above Montreal, there was nothing that could be called a colony, and, even down to 1783, when the settlement of the U. E. Loyalists took place, there was scarcely any settlement on the north side of the lakes, with the exception of a few French on the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers, and the Indians. The acquaintance with the great lakes on the south, and then British side of the shore, was still more recent. The first trading post of the British was at Oswego, and was not established until 1722. In 1791, on the northern sides of the lakes, there were only 3000, or 4000 inhabitants of European descent, and the country on their shores was almost an unbroken solitude. The mail from Quebec reached the few settlers at the upper end of Lake Ontario only once in six months. On the southern shore the inhabitants were scarcely more numerous, and the scene was essentially the same.

Such was the state of things in the country around the lakes sixty years ago. But while the general features of nature which the lakes present, remain almost the same, as they have been for ages, they have changed, even within the brief