

" their friends to partake of the good cheer. Liquor flowed like water (1), followed by dancing in the evening.

" On leaving Lachine, the next point was St. Annes, at the extreme west of the island of Montreal. Although distant but fifteen miles, they always made their first halt at this village, and the voyage was only supposed to begin in earnest when St. Annes was left behind. Before leaving, it was customary for the *voyageurs* to congregate in prayer at the church, bringing their greeting to the good St. Ann, and putting themselves under her protection. At the time, this sanctuary was about the last on the route of travel." *Un Voyageur des Pays d'en Haut*, p. 23-33.

" About the 15th of June, 1791," says Mr. McDonald, grand father of Mr. de Léry McDonald, " I left Lachine in a large birch canoe manned by 14 choice *voyageurs* and our cook. A crowd of friends and spectators were there to witness our departure, a great event before the time of the steamers. We landed at Ste Anne, where the men paid their devotion to their titular Saint." *Les Bourgeois de l'Ouest*, vol. 1, p. 12.

CANOE AND BATTEAUX.

Bouchette, *Topographical Description*, 1815, pp. 136-39, gives a graphic description of these primitive craft :

" During the months between May and November, batteaux

(1) The extent of the traffic of intoxicating liquors in Lachine has been the subject of frequent comment. The charge is not altogether unfounded, but I think it exaggerated. Taking into consideration the commercial and geographical situation of the locality, the good character of the population cannot be gainsaid. Lachine has ever been very much exposed to the temptation of alcoholic beverage. At the very origin of the colony, long time before the foundation of Montreal, and for more than a century afterwards, it was the trading rendez-vous of the Indian tribes. Sometimes they were kept for months as a means of protection against the inroads of the Iroquois. Of course they had to be feted, so that under the circumstances it is not astonishing if Lachine became the scene of grave disorders. Some fifty years later, Lachine became the headquarters of the fur traders and rendez-vous for the North West *voyageurs*, thereby entailing new dangers. The construction of the canals and railroads the large lumber basins, navigation, workshops, the neighborhood of an Indian village and of a large city like Montreal, the drives along the river front and elsewhere, all combine to attract, on Sunday especially, an excess of strangers bent upon amusement only. Nor must it be forgotten that there exist but few places made up of a greater diversity of race and creed, in all 17 nationalities. Despite all these perils, the population has remained peaceable and of a profoundly moral and religious nature. Crimes are unknown, and the public peace is seldom disturbed. In the twenty years of my residence in Lachine, I fail to recall the commission of a single murder or manslaughter.