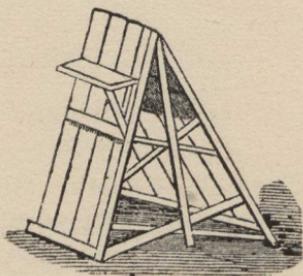


The savages of America, like those of other lands usually adopted as a means of defence, a circular palisade, a form which appears to have been adhered to by many of the tribes which inhabited that portion of America, now comprised within the limits of the Dominion of Canada. When Jacques Cartier in 1535, first visited the island whereon now stands the City of Montreal, he found it inhabited by a tribe of Indians, who had established themselves near the foot of the Mountain, which he named Mount Royal. Here they had erected their cabins or lodges, about 50 in number, the whole being encircled with a palisade formed of the trunks of trees set in a triple row. The outer and inner ranges inclined till they met and crossed near the summit,



SECTION OF INDIAN PALISADE.

while the upright row between them, aided by transverse braces, gave to the whole an abundant strength. Within were galleries for the defenders, rude ladders to mount them, and magazines of stones to throw down on the heads of the assailants. The entrance was a narrow portal, barely sufficient to admit the bodies of the savages who dwelt within these, the first fortifications on the Island of Montreal. The palisades must have enclosed a large area, as Cartier states that each of the 50 oblong dwellings were fifty yards or more in length, and 12 or 15 wide, while in the centre of the town was an open area, or public square, a stone's-throw in width. The population was also numerous, as in each of the dwellings resided many families.