

the St. Lawrence River and the great lakes, and was already here when the Huron savage appeared on the scene. The A-ben-a-ki and their dialects are now confined mainly to New Brunswick and the Maritime Coasts, and Penetanguishene, slightly modified by the exigencies of changing dialects, is one of the few names—melancholy relics, sparsely scattered here and there north of the great lakes—which remain to tell of A-ben-a-ki occupation. Strangely enough, Penetanguishene and Cataraqua (Kingston) are the only two names of the Abenaki dialect remaining in Ontario which remind us of the passing of this once powerful branch of the great Algonquin race. It is said "there are slippery places in Indian philology," which admonish us of the "uncertainty of tribal divisions and dialect derivations." Still, there are many facts in the history of these tribal changes and local tradition which furnish abundant evidence confirming the theory of this origin. Edward Jack, an authoritative writer on Indian lore, who spent his life in the forest with the Indians, especially the Abenaki, says he frequently heard words and phrases from the Abenaki language used by the Ojibways on the shores of Lake Superior. Again, some few years ago, two or three Abenaki families migrated from New Brunswick to work in the lumber regions of Muskoka, and when conversing on the subject they always claimed that this was formerly the stamping ground of the Abenaki race, and local tradition agrees in strongly supporting their claim. The present form of "Penetanguishene" is Ojibway, and like Cau-da-ra-quā (Kingston), which has no less than thirty-nine variant spellings, its orthography has undergone numerous changes, though not so many. Among the variations may be noted Penetangoushene, Penetancctoshene, Penetancctshene, with an extended list still undiscovered.

CHAPTER I.

THE FRENCH PERIOD

Penetanguishene Bay first became known to white men when in August, 1615, that intrepid adventurer, Champlain, and his French VOYAGEURS landed at Outouacha Bay (now known as Colborne Bay or Northwest Basin), on the western shores of the bay, on an expedition of discovery and exploration in the Huron country after an arduous journey of over nine hundred miles from Quebec up the St. Lawrence, Ottawa and Mattawa rivers, across Lake Nipissing, down the French