

DISCOVERY OF BURLINGTON BAY.

Our desire to reach the village called Otinaoustaoua prevented our going to view that wonder, which I consider as so much the greater in proportion as the River St. Lawrence is one of the largest in the world. I will leave you to judge if that is not a fine cataract in which all the water in that river, having its mouth three leagues broad,§ falls from a height of 200 feet, with a noise that is heard not only at the place where we were, 10 or 12 leagues distant, but also from the other side of Lake Ontario, opposite its mouth, where M. Trouve told me he had heard it.

We passed the river, and finally, at the end of five days travel, arrived at the extremity of Lake Ontario, where there is a fine large sandy bay, at the end of which is an outlet of another small lake, which is there discharged.

Into this our guide conducted us about half a league, to a point nearest the village, but distant from it some 5 or 6 leagues, and where we unloaded our canoes.||

We waited here until the chief of the village came to meet us with some men to carry our effects. M. de La Salle was seized while hunting with a severe fever, which in a few days reduced him very low.

Some said it was caused by the sight of three large rattlesnakes which he had encountered on his way while ascending a rocky eminence. At any rate it is certain that it is a very ugly spectacle, for those animals are not timid like other serpents, but firmly wait for a person, quickly assuming a defensive attitude, coiling half the body from the tail to the middle as if it were a large cord, keeping the remainder entirely straight, and darting forward, sometimes 3 or 4 paces, all the time making a loud noise, with the rattle which it carries at the end of its tail. There are many in this place as large as the arm, six or seven feet long, and entirely black. It vibrates its tail very rapidly, making a sound like a quantity of melon or gourd seeds shaken in a box.

At length after waiting three days, the chiefs and some fifty Indians and squaws from the village came to see us.

We gave presents to obtain two captive slaves, and a third for carrying our effects to the village. The savages made us two presents. The first of fourteen or fifteen deerskins, to assure us they were going to conduct us to their village, the second of

their journals. The Niagara river is alluded to under the name of Ongniaehra, as the celebrated river of the Neuter nation, but no mention is made of the cataract.

§At the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
|| Oaklands.

about 5,000 shell beads, and afterwards two captives for guides. One of them belonged to the Codanos (Shawnees), and the other to the Nez Perces. They were both excellent hunters and seemed to be well disposed. Conducted by the Indians we proceeded to the village of Otinaouataoua, arriving there on the 24th Sept., 1669."

Dropping the journal of Galinee at this point I might say that at this place, then but a small Iroquois village though twenty years before an important Neuter town, the missionaries had received such a hearty welcome as made one of them think seriously of spending the rest of his days there.

While there they provided their captive guide (the one allotted to the priests) with a coat, blanket, pot and knife, as equipment for their future journey. An Indian arrived, however, from the Dutch with a keg of brandy, and it was soon discovered that the said guide had sold or pledged his coat for ten mouthfuls. This greatly annoyed the worthy Father Galinee, who immediately seized the hypothecated coat and discharged the guide. The latter expressed great contrition, but finding he had no chance of being restored to favor, brought back all the things which had been given him, and introduced a fellow captive from the same tribe, who was accepted in his stead. As the affair made a good deal of stir in the village, the chiefs held a council and presented the missionaries with two thousand beads in order to cause them to forget the matter, and further made a great feast.

This Indian village appears to have been situated on the borders of a small lake in the township of Nelson, about 10 miles from Hamilton, known as Lake Medad, not far beyond Waterdown. Some seven years ago the writer having learned that an ancient Indian ossuary or bone pit had been discovered at this point, through the burrowing of a small animal called a woodchuck, had the curiosity to visit the place, and found it a most interesting one. The lake itself, a pretty sheet of water of some eight acres in extent is fed by abundant natural springs. On one side beneath an abrupt rocky bank, and from a rocky basin which may have been widened and cleared of loose stones ages ago, bursts out a noble spring of clear cold water, sufficient in capacity to supply the wants of a small city. A steep pathway cut deeply into the rock and earthly embankment by the feet of both wild animals and Indians in prehistoric times, leads from the spring up to a sloping plain of considerable extent, on which as yet but little modern cultivation has been accom-