

in the present day. Rochefoucauld says of that village, 1795:—"The different buildings, constructed three years ago, consist of a tolerable inn, two or three good storehouses, some small houses, a block-house of stone, covered with iron, and barracks. Mr. Hamilton, an opulent merchant, who is concerned in the whole inland trade in this part of America, possesses in Queenston a very fine house built in the English style. He has also a farm, a distillery, and a tanyard. The portage was formerly on the other side of the river; but as this, by virtue of the treaty of 1794, falls under American dominion, government has removed it hither."

From the mouth of the Niagara River westward to the head of the lake are a number of creeks which discharge themselves into the lake, or rather into ponds, which are separated from the lake by bars of sand. These creeks are known by numbers, according to their distance from Niagara. Thus we have 1 mile creek and 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, and so on. At the mouth of each creek is a pond, separated from the lake by a sandbar. The outlet to the lake is not always open. At some of the ponds, when the water is low, the bar completely separates the pond from the lake. In the spring, or when there is a freshet, the water washes away the sand and makes a channel to the lake. These ponds vary in size: at One Mile Creek it is four or five acres in extent; at Two Mile Creek it is some sixteen acres.

Original routes. The aborigines were wont to journey across the Niagara peninsula in passing from one region to another. Their habit was to follow as much as possible the shores of a lake or a stream to or from its source. The traces of old Indian trails are frequently met with in all parts of Canada. These trails were also followed by the first explorers of the primeval wood; and the first settlers likewise used them in their travels. Not unfrequently these trails became permanent roads. A stream would sometimes be followed by the birch canoe, but usually along the course of the stream would be a trail, not exactly following the shore; but when its course was devious, the trail would take a direct line; but always ending at or near the source of the stream. Then there would be a portage to the head waters of another stream running in another direction. There were also portages to get around unnavigable rapids or falls.

The Niagara River was a great thoroughfare for the French and English to pass from one lake to the other, the portage extending from below the heights to a point above the falls. But there is no evidence that the Indians very often passed this way. Their route most frequently was eastward and westward; and the several creeks on the south shore of Lake Ontario, west of Niagara River, and now known by numbers,