

THE STORY OF THE HURONS.

the Jesuit estimate is thirty-two inhabited villages and thirty-two thousand of a population. From this it will be seen that the number of people in the district at that time was as large as at the present time, including the large towns of Orillia, Midland and Penetanguishene.

Unlike most of the other Indian tribes, the Hurons were farmers, fishermen and traders, cultivating the land and raising corn, beans and other crops for food, and hemp for fishing lines and nets. From other nations they obtained, by barter, supplies of furs, tobacco and other merchantable goods, which they traded in the East for such other articles as they required.

The country of the Hurons is one of the most interesting archæological fields in Canada, and traces have been found of upwards of four hundred places, which beyond doubt, were the sites of Huron villages. The large number of places identified as village sites by reason of the ashes, debris, implements, fragments of pottery and other evidences of occupation, is accounted for in several ways. The domestic conditions under which they lived made