

although singly surpassed in magnitude by the Caspian, the waters of which are salt, the Caspian has no outlet, while Lake Superior, with undiminished volume, discharges its surplus waters by a mighty river.

Up to 1678 only the Indian canoe had skimmed the surface of the great Lakes, and their names therefore are all of Indian origin except the name of Lake Superior, which it received from the French. Although the river St. Lawrence had been entered and explored, as far as the Cedar Rapids, by Jacques Cartier so early as in the years 1534, 1535, and 1541, and finally by Champlain, by whom the first permanent settlement in Canada was formed at Quebec in 1608, the first record of the shores of any of the lakes having been trodden by the foot of Europeans is the account of Champlain's visit to Lake Huron from Montreal by the route of the Ottawa, in 1615. Little however was known about them for years afterwards, during which the infant colony of New France was scarcely more than struggling for existence. At length the adventurous white man ascended the St. Lawrence, passed its foaming rapids, and penetrated through the trackless forests to Lakes Ontario and Erie. In 1654 the Jesuit father Le Moine made the first settlement in the vicinity of Lake Ontario, which was then called by the French "the Lake of the Iroquois," by founding a mission house at Onondago, near the present town of Syracuse, on the south side of the lake, and, in 1667, Father Perrot penetrated to Lake Superior. In 1671 Sieur Soissons met the assembled deputies of the Indian tribes at the Sault St. Mary. In 1673, Fort Frontenac was erected on the site of the present Tête du Pont Barracks at Kingston, and about the same time trading posts were established at Detroit, Mackinaw and Niagara. In 1678, a vessel of 16 tons was