

and their statement, which we need not question, merely shows that their immediate predecessors in that locality were Iroquois. If, as the Huron traditions affirm, the flight of their ancestors from their eastern abode was caused by the attacks of the Iroquois, we may be certain that the latter did not leave the deserted country vacant. Their first proceeding would be to assume possession of it, and to plant colonies at favorable points. This was their custom in all their conquests. An Iroquois colony was thus established at Shamokin, now Sunbury, in Pennsylvania, after the Delawares were subdued; and other settlements secured the territories which the confederacy acquired in northern Ohio. Thus it would seem probable that, after the flight of the Hurons, the Algonkins held their lands along the northern bank of the St. Lawrence for a considerable time. At length, however, the annoyance and loss from the incessant attacks of the surrounding Algonkins became so intolerable as to make these distant outposts not worth keeping. Their abandonment apparently did not long precede the arrival of Champlain, who, as is well known, found the Hurons and the Algonkins united in strict alliance, and engaged in a deadly warfare with the Iroquois.

We are thus enabled, by the aid of Indian tradition, to clear up some perplexities which have been caused by the seemingly contradictory accounts of the first explorers of our continent. We gain at the same time a clear conception of the movements among the native tribes which preceded the establishment of European colonies in North America, and which exercised a momentous influence on the fortunes of those colonies.

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