

classical or fancy names have also been frequently employed, as Salem, Goshen, Utica, Syracuse, Amaranth, Avalon.

In none of these cases, is there wanting an interest, if not a benefit, in arriving at a knowledge of the circumstances which caused, or the motives which led to the adoption of a name. We need make no apology, therefore, for spending a while in seeking the origin of some of our Canadian geographical or topographical names, especially those which contain the record of our early history.

The names of places in Canada may be generally divided into three classes, marking three stages in the history of the country—the aboriginal, the French and the British. In treating of the subject, however, it will not be necessary to adhere rigidly to this division, nor, indeed, would such a mode of treatment be historically correct, as French names have been given under British rule, and Indian names under the *régime* of both France and England.

Canada, for instance, was not used in its present signification till the year 1867 ; neither was Ontario, nor Manitoba. If Canada be an aboriginal word, and mean, as some would have us believe " a collection of huts "—perhaps the descriptive name of Stadacona or old Hochelaga,—it leads us back to the very beginning of our history, to the earliest attempts at European colonization in this part of the continent. There surely must have been some good reason for preferring Quebec to such a grandly musical name as Stadacona. It is a pity that neither the latter, nor Hochelaga was brought into honorable service when a new designation was required for the old Province of Lower Canada. " Kepec " or " Quebec " is said to mean a " strait " in the Algonquin dialect, and it may be that Cartier choose to retain it as indicating the narrowing of the river opposite Stadacona. It was between the Island of Orleans and the Beauport shore that the great navigator had his first interview with the Chief Donnacona, who came with twelve canoes of eight