

outlet of Nine Mile Creek, a circuit of about nine miles. The springs formerly issued naturally from a black muck, which composes the surface of the marsh, by small orifices, apparently in a perpendicular direction.

The marsh from whence they issued, in most places, was destitute of grass and other vegetables, except samphire, and when the sun shone the water was evaporated from the surface of the mud, leaving it covered with chrystalized salt. Other substances which happened within the reach of the salt water, were frequently covered with oxide of iron, giving them a reddish brown color. These appearances may be said to be annually diminishing.

The salt springs at Onondaga, were well known to the Indians, at the time of their first intercourse with the whites. Father Jerome Lallemant, is the first French writer who makes mention of the "*Salt Fountains*" at Onondaga, in his *Relation* of 1645-46.*

Father Le Moyne, a Jesuit missionary, who had spent some time among the Hurons, and who first came to Onondaga in 1653, with a party of Huron and Onondaga chiefs, as an envoy to ratify a treaty of peace between the two nations, in which the French of Canada were interested, is supposed to be the first white man who first, personally, took notice of the Onondaga Salt Springs. (See Le Moyne's *Journal*, page 138.) His discovery and declaration was an event so unexpected and surprising to the Dutch, to whom he afterwards related the fact, at New Amsterdam, that the good people of that city, without hesitation, pronounced it "*a Jesuit lie*."†

Father Iogues, visited the Onondagas, some ten years earlier, but makes no mention of these salt springs. It is possible, however, that he may have known of them. Francis Creuxius, a latin writer and a Jesuit missionary, gives a very

* He speaks in these words: "La fontaine dont on fait des tresbon sel, coupe une belle prairie environnée de bois de haute fustaye. A quatre-vingt ou centaine pas de cette source sallée il s'en voit une autre d'eau douce et ces deux contraires, prennent naissance du sein d'une mesmé colline.

† Dr. O. Callaghan.