

difficulties which crop out in the Legislative Chambers at Quebec, much as one parish regards the petty squabbles of a parish a few miles distant. But important principles are often determined there. The removal of Mr. Letellier is a remarkable case in point. Nevertheless, few in Ontario felt more than a passing interest in the issue, and possibly no limited number may turn over these pages with a similar disregard. As the Saguenay is familiar to them as a river visited by tourists, up which they themselves have made a pleasant trip, or it may be one of those spots, which, 'when the ship comes home,' they will 'do.' The question raised by Mr. Buies is not of this character. His book is not an advertisement for enterprising steamboat firms. His object is to discuss the capacity for settlement of the Saguenay district, with the hope of turning public attention to the consideration, whether any part of the numerous French Canadian population yearly leaving the Province can be induced to give their strength and effort to the cultivation of a district favoured by soil and climate. We shall consider this subject hereafter, when we have examined the capabilities of the territory which Mr. Buies' pleasantly-written book enables us to describe.

The name Saguenay has always existed as that of the river, but the district was known originally as *Domaine du Roi*, forming part of the possessions of the *Fermes Reunies de France*, conceded to a Company—known as *Compagnie des Postes du Roi*. It was explored to some extent under the intendant Hocquart in 1733, and its boundaries established. Its limits were defined as bounded on the east by the Seigneurie of Les Eboulements, opposite the north-east of Ile Aux Coudres to Cape Comoron to the west, extending to 47° 15' of north latitude, to the height of land where the portage to the waters running into Lake St. John is met. The frontage on the St. Lawrence extends over 300 miles, and the

territory runs back to Hudson's Bay. At this period, the district was held to be one of the best fishing and hunting grounds in North America, and the advantages of its possession was held to lie entirely in that direction. There was no attempt to colonise the territory; the system was, doubtless, profitable to those who held the concession who appear to have been perfectly willing that the country should remain a wilderness provided that their own households profited by its condition. At that day, under different masters, the Saguenay exemplified all the peculiarities of rule which were existent in the North-West under the Hudson's Bay Company. Every one but those interested were excluded, and the most repellent accounts of the country given to the outside world. Every influence was directed to keep the district under the control of those who possessed it. The fate of the Saguenay territory, whoever its owner, may be judged by what took place west of Lake Superior. Hospitable and open-hearted, the leading Hudson's Bay officials, while impressing the stray visitors by their frank kindness, instilled the poison of false information and misrepresented the resources and character of the country. Captain Palliser is a notable instance of this policy. His report, dated 1863, gave the most unfavourable account of the country between Lake Superior and the Red River, and virtually represented that a railway between Lake Superior and Winnipeg was an impossibility. Had his suggestion been acted upon—with the power of the Company to exclude 'foreigners'—the country would still have been a wilderness to day.

The Conquest made no difference in the condition of the Saguenay, it was farmed out as a wilderness to a new lot of men. There were some scattered trading posts established where expedient, and the district was left in undisturbed possession of the Indian and trapper. Some few