

QUEEN'S HOTEL, MONTREAL



Custom
House

The few pictures that are preserved of this early Indian life convey at least but a faint idea of the charm and beauty of the Island of Montreal, as Hochelaga is known to us now. The wooded island, washed by the beautiful St. Lawrence and lapped by the lispng waves of the quiet lake, upon

whose calm surface the shell-like barques of the brown-skinned natives of the North rocked gaily in the morning breeze; the fir-clad island hills, the long, low line of the Laurentian Mountains, moored in the wilderness to them unknown, made a picture that appealed to the artistic explorers and adventurous voyageurs from the Old World.

And that is why Cartier called it Hochelaga, went away, came back and called again; why Champlain came, and others came to cast their lot in this new land, to build and barter, to trap and traffic, to live and loiter on the great St. Lawrence, and some of them to woo and win the wild Juanitas of this fair New France.



The Harbor,
looking east.