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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF OTTAWA.

THE City of Ottawa, taking its name from the Ottawa or Grand River of Canada, on which it is situated, the *Outaouais* of the early French pioneers, lies about 120 miles above the Island of Montreal. The latter, some seventy-five years ago was the *Ultima Thule* of Canadian civilization, and save rarely by hunters or fur traders, the waters of the Ottawa were undisturbed by the white man; the birch bark canoe of the Indian was the only vessel that navigated its waters. Celebrated as this river is, especially the upper part of it, for its numberless and varied falls and rapids, amongst which the most striking and grand is that named by the early French pioneers the Chaudière, or as it is generally called, the "Big Kettle." For some miles above this there are numerous *chutes* or rapids, which indicate how great is the incline of the river, which narrowing at these falls to about four hundred yards is precipitated wildly over a bluff limestone rock, through a gap about 200 feet wide and 300 long, within which, as in a kettle, the waters foam and boil, surging in large yeasty masses back and forth from side to side, until, eventually, they escape in a mountain of foam, and directly expand into about a width of half a mile just below. The scenery below the heights on the south side, where the limestone rocks rise perpendicularly two or three hundred feet, covered with waving hemlocks and dark pines, the undulating banks on the north shore, the abrupt precipices on the south—is very beautiful, and only equalled, though in a different style, by the aspect of Quebec. Here the hunters or traders had in earlier days to pause, for it was impossible to attempt the navigation higher, and here they tramped out a *portage* on the northern shore, of eight miles in length, across which they carried their canoes, &c., to the quiet waters above the Chaudière and its rapids, to what is now, the Town of Aylmer.

About the close of the last century, a Mr. Wright, of Boston, who was either tired of his native town, his native State, or possessed of a desire of gain, wandering in search of "a location" came with his party to the portage of the Chaudière, and here he determined to settle. Land was cheap in those days, and Mr. Wright easily obtained a grant of large tracts of land upon both sides of the river from the Canadian Government.

With the aid of a couple of Indians he explored the land, and decided that that on the south side (the present city) was unfit for town or farm; that on the north side was pronounced better, and about a mile from the *portage* landing, close to the Chaudière Falls