

The City of Montreal.

The City of Montreal, the commercial metropolis of Canada, is built on an island of the same name, situated at the junction of the rivers Ottawa and St. Lawrence.

The waters of the Ottawa river strike the head of the Island in such a manner as to divide and surround the Island, so that what is known as the St. Lawrence River opposite the city is really divided into two streams; that on the city side being Ottawa water while that on south side is St. Lawrence. Of course the waters mingle somewhat in the lower part of their course, but, on crossing Lake St. Louis near the head of the Island, one can see distinctly the line of division between the two streams, the water of the St. Lawrence being green while that of the Ottawa is brown.

The island is about 30 miles long by 10 miles broad.

Montreal was founded on the 8th May, 1642, by Maisonneuve, who gave it the name of Ville-Marie de Montreal. The old Indian village of Hochelaga, described by Jacques Cartier, was situated near the present site of the English Cathedral. On the 8th September, 1760, Montreal was surrendered by the French to the British. During the American War of Independence, Montreal was taken by the Americans under Montgomery, 12th November, 1775, but was retaken by the British on the 15th June, 1776.

Montreal was the seat of Government, till in 1849, during the governorship of Lord Elgin, Parliament removed to Ottawa then called Bytown. This removal was the result of, among other things, political riots, incited by the signing of "The Dominion Losses Bill," during which the Parliament Buildings were burned and the Governor-General mobbed. British troops were stationed in Montreal till 1870. From 1685 to 1801, Montreal was surrounded by a wall, extending along the site of Fortification Lane from Victoria Square to Dalhousie Square where the Canadian Pacific depot now is, from Victoria Square the walls extended down to the river about the line of McGill Street. The city then was of triangular shape, the small angle pointing towards the east. At present the city is of triangular shape but the small angle points towards the west.