

with which one race supplants another over large areas. When Cartier arrived in the St. Lawrence he described large and permanent Indian villages at Stadacona and Hochelaga; but little more than half a century afterwards, when Champlain visited the same localities, he apparently found few Indians about Quebec, and none permanently settled at Montreal. There may have been some exaggeration in Cartier's account, but the main fact remains, and it may probably be accounted for by the increasing power of the Iroquois, which made those places dangerous abodes, and compelled the tribes, which formerly occupied them, to retreat into the interior. Again, the country north of Lake Ontario is described by Champlain as affording signs of having been formerly extensively cultivated and thickly inhabited, but in his day it was entirely deserted, and only used as a hunting ground by the neighbouring tribes. But the country of the Ottawa, and across to the Northern shore of Lake Huron, as also the Western Peninsula, is described as full of Hurons, and of Algonquin, Ottawa, Nipissing and other allied tribes. Amongst the Hurons alone, in the limited area between Matchedash Bay and Lake Simcoe, he reckons 18 walled villages, numbering 2,000 fighting men, and Sagard puts the whole population down at 30 or 40,000 souls.* Yet, within 30 years from that time this region was also a desert, and the remnants of the former inhabitants had retreated to the Northern Lakes, and as far west as the Sioux. The Hurons indeed were almost exterminated, and the paltry remnant which had not been either destroyed or incorporated with other tribes, were collected and brought down to Quebec, where their descendants still occupy the village of Lorette. All the tribes of the Western Peninsula, and the Eries on the South shore of that Lake, seem also to have been utterly exterminated, as well as the greater part of the Illinois, and other Western tribes, and the Iroquois were dominant over all Upper Canada, and all the northern part of New York and Ohio. All this occurred without the intervention of the white man, and there has been no disappearance of a savage race since from the diseases and vices which civilization brings in its train, which has surpassed, even if it has equalled in completeness and rapidity, the desolation which the conquering

* It would not appear that this estimate can have been very greatly exaggerated, from the account given of the missionary establishments. They numbered in their most flourishing period, about 1645, 42 missionaries besides their attendants. Of these two or three only remained at the principal station of St. Marie, at the mouth of the Wye, five other villages were called residences, where one or two missionaries remained permanently, and the rest moved from village to village often having as many as 10 under their charge. As several of these villages are mentioned as containing from 100 to 200 cabins, and 4 or 5 families residing in each, the whole population cannot have fallen far short of 30,000.