

FORT ROUILLE.

A huge, granite boulder, originally a portion of the fort itself, is set upon a cairn, and contains the following inscription, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Scadding:—

THIS CAIRN marks the exact site of FORT ROUILLE, commonly known as FORT TORONTO, an Indian trading post and stockade, Established A.D. 1749. By order of the Government of Louis XV., in accordance with the recommendation of The Count de La Galissoniere, Administrator of New France, 1747-1749.

Erected by the Corporation of the City of Toronto, A.D. 1878.

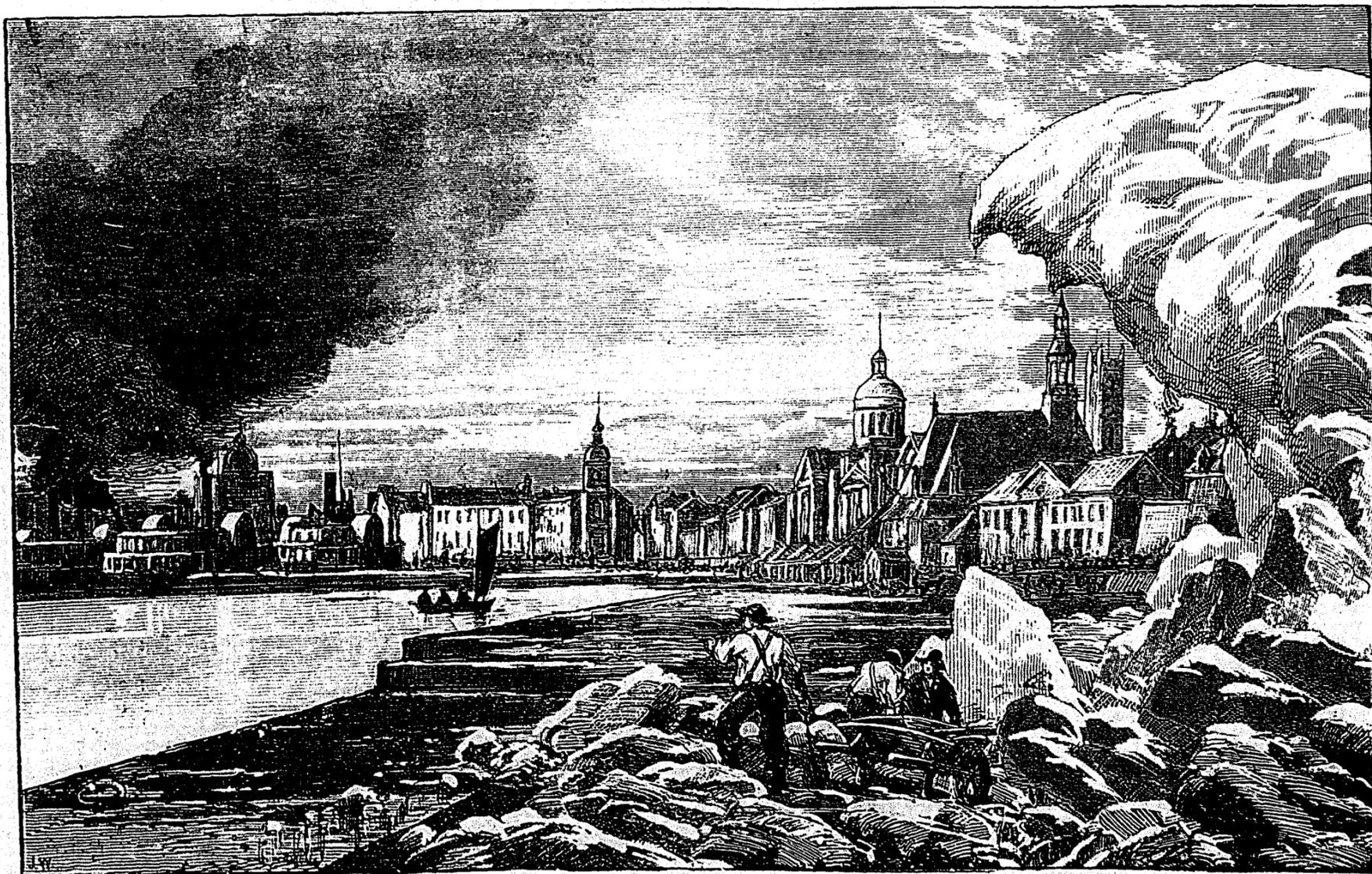
Although the inscription speaks for itself, it may be interesting here to state briefly the circumstances which led to the establishment of the fort by the French. Previous to 1749 Forts Frontenac and Niagara were the only posts to guard the interior of Western Canada from the incursions of the Iroquois of New York State, who had always been a source of great annoyance to the inhabitants of Canada. It was customary for the shrewd English Colonists of New York to despatch bands of Iroquois to Canada to traffic with the native Indians for furs, and they generally returned from these expeditions with a moderate supply of furs and a very liberal supply of scalps. The two existing forts proved insufficient to shut out the traders and marauders, who made their way into the North-West by the route of the Humber River. The agitation for a protecting fort at that point had been renewed again and again, but nothing was done. By the middle of the eighteenth century, however, the establishment of a French trading post there had become a necessity in consequence of the rising importance of the post established by the English at Choueguen, now called Oswego,



MONTREAL.—ISLAND WHARF. PUTTING UP THE LIGHT-HOUSE.

where some of the Canadian Indians had become accustomed to take their peltries, instead of to Frontenac or Niagara. In the year 1749, therefore, a trading post, fortified by a stockade, was built on the eastern head of the inlet now known as Humber Bay. Its official designation was Fort Rouille, after a French Colonial Minister of that name, but this title seems to have been employed in official documents only. In common parlance, it was known as Fort Toronto, from the "place of meeting" of the Huron tribe. The establishment of this fort gave an impetus to trade; but in 1759 French domination in Canada practically came to an end, and almost immediately afterwards Fort Toronto ceased to be maintained as a trading post. It was demolished and deserted by its former occupants, and never again renewed. The shore has receded considerably since the days of French occupation, and part of the foundations have been undermined by the waves and washed away, but enough remain to mark the spot. By descending to the water's edge and looking up at the bank, the visitor will have no difficulty in perceiving such remains as time and the encroachments of the lake have left undisturbed.

It is said of the late Asa Otis, of New London, who left nearly \$1,000,000 to the cause of foreign missions, that probably no man in the United States spent less money for personal adornment than he. He was never shabby or untidy in appearance, but he clung with a love surpassing that of woman to a linen suit of scant measure in the summer time, and a suit of pre-historic pattern clothed him in the winter season. He kept no horses, and did his marketing himself, carrying home his purchases in a large willow basket.



MONTREAL.—LONG WHARF. CLEARING AWAY OF THE ICE.