

against possible contingencies, for these makers of flint arrow-heads and stone axes were, as the Pathfinder would call it, "judgmatical" in the selection of their camping grounds.

Occupying a strategic position, between the upper and lower portages of the north shore of the Ottawa, this rocky and well wooded inlet possessed exceptional facilities for the formation of an ambuscade, that would not fail to be taken advantage of under the conditions of primitive warfare.

Standing amidst the debris of this pre-historic Indian workshop, one cannot fail to be carried back, in imagination, to a time, when this intricate system of islands and channels, rapids and falls was clothed in the sombre garments of the primæval forest. One pictures to himself the peaceful condition of this northern wilderness ere the once powerful Algonkin-Huron combination, that claimed sovereignty over it, had dwindled into insignificance before the superior military and diplomatic genius of the five confederated nations to the south of the great lakes; ere the Algonkin name, which once carried terror to the council fires of its enemies, had become a term of contempt, through that lack of military organization which led to the downfall and final dispersion of that nation.

One sees a dense cloud of spray hovering over the spot where the downward sweeping waters take their final plunge into the lower river, with a green tree-clad eminence in the background, and is reminded that this place was known to the Mohawks as "Tsitkanajoh," or the "floating kettle; while the Onondagas called it "Katsidagwehniyoh," or the chief "Council Fire."* So that either of these names may have been a shibboleth on the Ottawa during the closing acts in that tragedy of the middle of the 17th century, which resulted in the wiping out of the once dominant Algonkin-Huron confederacy.

But, by the subtle magic of these names, the retrospective scene is changed and the inner circle of the council fire of this ancient camping ground is occupied by the grim war chiefs of the Iroquois. For this wonderful race of sagacious warriors, in conformity with a well planned and far-reaching scheme of conquest, has sent war-parties to secure among other places the passes of the Chaudière and intercept the Huron traffic with the French

*See Ontario Archaeological Report of 1898.