

"The island of Montreal stands at the confluence of the rivers Ottawa and St. Lawrence, and is the largest of several islands splitting up these mighty streams, which cannot be said to be thoroughly mingled until they have descended some miles below the whole cluster. The rivers first come in contact in a considerable sheet of water called Lake St. Louis which separates the upper part of the Island of Montreal from the southern main. But though the streams here touch, they do not mingle. The waters of the St. Lawrence, which are beautifully clear and transparent, keep along the southern shore, while those of the Ottawa, of a darker aspect, though by no means turbid, wash the banks of the island; and the contrast of colour they present strongly marks their line of contact for many miles.

Lake St. Louis is at the widest part about six miles broad with a length of twelve miles. It gradually narrows towards the lower end, and the river as it issues from it, becoming compressed into the space of half a mile, rushes with great violence down the rapids of Lachine, and although the stream is known to be upwards of eight feet deep, it is thrown into huge surges of nearly as many feet high as it passes over its rocky bottom, which at this spot is composed of layers of trap extending into floors that lie in successive steps.

At the termination of this cascade the river expands to a breadth of four miles, and flows gently on, until it again becomes cramped up by islands and shallows opposite the city of Montreal. From Windmill Point and Point St. Charles above the town, several ledges of rock, composed of trap lying in floors, which in seasons of low water are not much below the surface, shoot out into the stream about 1000 yards: and similar layers pointing to these come out from Longueuil on the opposite shore. In the narrow channel between them, the water, rushing with much force, produces the Sault Normand, and