

PREHISTORIC CAMPING GROUNDS ALONG THE  
OTTAWA RIVER.

BY T. W. EDWIN SOWTER.

The evidences of Indian occupation that are met with along the Ottawa River, between the City of Hull and Pointe à la Bataille, on Lake Deschênes, consist, for the most part, of the prehistoric camping grounds that occur at frequent intervals along the shores of the lower part of the lake.

Now, just at this point, the "practical man" as Huxley would call him, comes forward with the very pertinent query: "How do you know that these places were Indian camping grounds?"

In the first place, it may be said that the grim warriors of our brethren of the Indian race, who repose in their ancient burial places on Lake Deschênes, regard not such poetic license as that which elicited from a Newport skeleton the weird confession of an armored viking; but these lords of the forest have left behind them such traces of their methods of living as cannot fail to be profoundly interesting and widely instructive to those who wish to study the conditions under which a primitive people were slowly struggling, upward and onward, along the highway of civilization.

In a former paper upon the "Archæology of Lake Deschênes," reference was made, among other places, to the traces of Indian occupation that are met with at Raymond's Point, on the Ontario side of the lake opposite Aylmer, Que. Let us take this place as an example, and see if we can prove that it is the site of a prehistoric Indian camping ground.

At this point, following the water-contour of Raymond's Bay, the lake shore consists of a well defined outcrop of Calciferous limestone holding in great abundance the typical gasteropodean fossils of that formation.

Resting on this Calciferous outcrop, we meet with the ubiquitous Laurentian boulder, which the merest tyro in geology would recognize as the legacy of the great glacier which, in its descent from the Laurentian highlands, traversed at this point at least the present course of the Ottawa River.

Where the alluvial soil has been washed away, at high-water mark, the Calciferous rocks are thickly strewn with fragments of