

the lakes beyond, mentioning, in connection therewith, a cataract and a portage. Lescarbot, in his "History of New France," published in 1609, tells of this in his story of Cartier's voyage. This is the earliest reference (1535) to the Great Lake region and Niagara's cataract.

Champlain, in his "Des Sauvages," published in 1603, speaks of a "fall," which, clearly, is Niagara, and on the map, in his "Voyages," published in 1613, he locates a river with such approximate exactness as to be the Niagara beyond doubt, and in that river he indicates a "sault d'eau," or water-fall.

In 1615 Etienne Brul , who was Champlain's interpreter, was in that vicinity, in the territory of the Neuter nation, and may have been the first pale-face to have seen the Falls. In 1626 the Franciscan priest Joseph de la Roche Dallion was on the Niagara river in the course of his missionary labors among the Neutrals. It is more than probable that at this date the Niagara route westward, as distinguished from the Ottawa route, was known and had been traversed by white men—the French traders or "coureurs de bois" previously mentioned. In the 1632 edition of his "Voyages," Champlain again, though inaccurately, locates on his map a river which cannot be any other than the Niagara, and quite accurately locates also a "waterfall, very high, at the end of Lake St. Louis (Ontario), where many kinds of fish are stunned in the descent."

In 1640 the Jesuit fathers Brebeuf and Chaumonot undertook their mission to the Neuter nation, the existence of the famous river of this nation having been familiar to the Jesuits before this

date. They crossed from the westerly to the easterly shore of the Niagara river, recrossing again, near where the village of Lewiston now stands, when their mission proved unsuccessful. In the Jesuit Relations we find references to this region. In that of 1641, published in 1642, Father L'Allement speaks of "the Neuter nation, Onguiaahra, having the same name as the river," and



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in that of 1648, published in 1649, Father Ragueneau speaks of "Lake Erie which is formed by the waters from the Mer Douce (Lake Huron), and which discharges itself into a third lake, called Ontario, over a cataract of fearful height."

Sanson in his map of Canada, 1657, correctly locates the lakes and this region, and calls the Falls "Ongiara