

The Indians, says Cartier in his narrative, "took my silver chain and also the leaden handle of a poignard of one of my men and showed that these metals could be obtained from the river of the west (the Ottawa), but that the passage was guarded by a ferocious nation called the Agojudas."

The settlement of Hochelaga was at that time the only one remaining in the hands of the Huron-Iroquois race on the St. Lawrence. All the north was occupied by the Algonquins, especially the Ottawa River and the territory extending from Allumette Island to Three Rivers. These Algonquins had dispersed the Iroquois from the shores of the St. Lawrence about 30 years before Cartier's visit.

The Island of Montreal was certainly more than sufficient in size to maintain the population of Hochelaga, because the Hurons lived mostly on their agricultural pursuits, whilst the Algonquins, who were hunters and consequently nomads, required an immense area of land to make a living. The Agojudas were evidently the Algonquins of the Ottawa.

We have no record of the second voyage made by Cartier at Hochelaga. In 1587, his grand nephew, Jacques Noel, came to the same spot and glanced towards the Occidental River, as he terms it, but he only quotes the following lines which he states were written by Cartier on a chart prepared by the latter. "The people of Canada (Quebec) and Hochelaga (Montreal) told me that the north-west branch of the St. Lawrence (the Ottawa) runs in the province of Saguenay, which is rich and abounds in precious stones."

We must also remember that Cartier had concluded from the expressions of the Indians that the Saguenay region was partly inhabited by a race of men walking on one leg—and other prodigies of that sort. He understood that if he could reach the far west of that land he would meet with white men dressed in cloth like the clothes he wore himself. These absurdities are very frequent in the narratives of the discoverers of the 16th and 17th centuries.

THE GREAT LAKES.

During his visit to the Island of Montreal, in the summer of 1603, Champlain obtained some information concerning the sources of the River St. Lawrence, but could not follow, as closely as he wished, the description given by the Indians.

"The Indians," he says, "on going from Montreal have five cascades to pass." These are the Cedars and Coteau cascades.

"From the beginning to the end of that series you may calculate eight leagues. The canoes are carried by land at two places only. Each of these falls contains about one-eighth of a league, sometimes one-quarter at the most. After that comes a lake which may measure in the neighbourhood of 15 or 16 leagues in length.