

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

this Lake from two Indian words "Montaie" Lake and "Io" great. The Frenchmen, however, called it St. Louis, after the French King. On the 14th, De Courcelles started on his return to Montreal, and occupied only three days in his trip. "The whole world," say the narrators of the event, "was greatly surprised to see that in fifteen days a large bateau was carried up to, and brought from Otondiata, without the loss of a man." Count De Frontenac, a bold, intelligent and resourceful leader of men, was appointed Governor of New France in 1672, and at once informed the French Government of the advisability of following out De Courcelles' plan for the establishment of two forts on Lake Ontario. He represented that he would visit the Lake in the following spring, and hoped thereby not only to prevent the fur trade with the Ottawas from going to the Dutch, but to strengthen the Mission already existing at Quintay or Quinte. In 1673, he made suitable preparations, constructing two bateaux, each of which carried a small cannon and sixteen men, asked aid from officers and settlers, collected a large force and numerous canoes, and started for Quebec on the 3rd June, blessed by the clergy and cheered by the people, and reached Montreal on the 13th, having made short stops by the way, at Three Rivers and elsewhere. He landed at Montreal "amidst the roar of all the cannon and musketry of the people of the Island, who were under arms." Remaining here until the 29th, he and his command set off to brave the dangers of the various rapids. He had 120 canoes, two bateaux, and 400 men, a good supply of provisions, and numerous presents for the Indians, whom he hoped to meet at the foot of the great Lake. The adventures of the large party, the succession victories over the

River, the hazardous crossing of the lakes on the St. Lawrence, the narrow escapes from disaster, are graphically told in the documents to be found in Paris, and published in 1855, of the Government of New York State, but I shall not now trouble you with an account of them. One item, illustrative of the novelty of the whole adventure, will interest you. Says the writer: "We had the pleasure to catch a small loon, a bird as large as a wild goose, of the most beautiful plumage, but so difficult to be caught alive, as it plunges constantly under water, that is no small rarity to be able to take one. A cage was made for it, and orders were given to endeavor to raise it, in order to be able to send it to the King." On July 11th, the party passed almost all the vast group of Islands, with which the River is studded, and camped on a point above a River called by the Indians Ornodokoni, now Gananoque, and "caught two more loons alive." On the 12th July the Camp was again broken, and after a few miles of paddling and rowing, through scenes unsurpassed in beauty upon this Continent, the broad surface of the Bay, with the immeasurable expanse of the magnificent inland sea beyond, gratified the sight of the French warriors and adventurers, and their Huron allies. That was indeed a glorious twelfth, worthy of remembrance by every son of Canada, for it ushered in the reign of civilization over barbarism, of christianity over heathenism, and of intelligent power over ignorant savagery. So long as the tale of Canadian progress is told, this date should be imprinted on the pages of our text books, and spoken of in our schools to the millions of boys and girls who, in the long centuries, will fill your places, as the true birthday of Ontario's growth and prosperity.