

201. The Indian name of the river appears as OUELAMOUKT upon the same Franquelin-de Meulles map of 1686, above mentioned, which gives the Oromocto as LE RAMOUCTOU. The Malisets call Cains River MIK-MA-WE-WEL-A-MOOK'-TOOK, that is MICMAC'S OROMOCTO, the syllable A-WE signifying always the possessive (literally, MICMAC-HIS-OROMOCTO). This name is also given by M. Chamberlain as MIK-MA'-WE-WI-LA-MŪK'-TŪK (*Op. cit.*, 58), while Edward Jack gives it as MICH-MA-WE-WÉ-LA-MOOC-TOOK (*Op. cit.*, 204). It seems quite clear, therefore, that WEL-A-MOOK'-TOOK is a Micmac name, and to be interpreted in that tongue. It may seem at first sight wholly improbable that a Micmac place-name would occur in Malisect territory, but, as I shall show in the later articles of this series, this is only one of a number of Micmac place-names existing upon the lower Saint John, and along the coast of the Bay of Fundy to Passamaquoddy and into Maine.

For the origin of the Micmac word we turn naturally to that invaluable storehouse of information upon the Micmac tongue, the works of the great Micmac scholar, Dr. Silas Rand. In his *Micmac-English Dictionary*, page 169, occurs the word WELA-MOOK to which is given the meaning BEAUTIFUL, KIND, and the same word occurs in connection with words meaning BEAUTIFUL, PRETTY, in his *English-Micmac Dictionary*. It would be possible, were it necessary, to analyze this word into its components, but it is enough to point out that the root WEL is an inseparable prefix having the meaning GOOD and occurring in several place-names of the Maritime Provinces, as will be shown in future numbers in this series. Thus much for the WELAMOOK; as to the TOOK that is perfectly clear. It is an inseparable suffix, sometimes having the distasteful form TA-GOOK, meaning RIVER, and occurring in many place-names in this region in both Micmac and Malisect territory, as will later appear. WEL-A-MOOK'-TOOK, then, means HANDSOME RIVER. I feel sure, however, that the word HANDSOME does not refer so much to the scenery, as to the general character of the river from the Indian point of view, which includes easy travelling for canoes as an indispensable element. It is especially true, that "handsome is what handsome does" in the mind of an Indian. Newell Paul told me that the word includes the idea of easy navigability for canoes as well as the scenery, and this would harmonize well with Rand's meaning KIND. Moreover, it is a fact that both of the rivers known by this name WEL-A-MOOK'-TOOK are distinguished above all others in their respective regions by the ease of canoe navigation along their principal parts. This I know from personal observation of them both, from their sources to their mouths. The Oromocto for the twelve miles from the St. John to the Forks, and for a little farther up the North Branch and two miles farther up the South Branch, is a winding deadwater stream of the easiest and most pleasing character, while Cains River for the lower half of its course is of very gentle current, largely a series of long still-water reaches broken only by occasional rapids of the most insignificant sort. I think there can be no question that this distinctive feature has originated the name in both cases. The word HANDSOME, therefore, does not exactly express the real meaning of the word. It could be rendered into French, I presume, as LA BELLE RIVIÈRE, but the nearest equivalent in English to the idea contained in the word is our somewhat colloquial expression, A FINE RIVER, which, I think, almost exactly expresses the idea the Indians had in mind, and which accordingly may be adopted as the best meaning.

It should be noted before leaving this part of our subject that a second form of the name is given by M. Chamberlain, who writes WE-LA-MO'-KÉT (*Op. cit.*, 60) and by Edward Jack, who gives me in a letter the form WI-LA-MO-GIT. But these variants are perfectly clear; they are simply the roots WEL-A-MOOK with the