



THE ST. LAWRENCE, IV.



MONG the early seigniors of these islands figure the names of some of the officers of regiment, subsequently to the dashing Carignan-Salière whom we find the name of a descendant of Baron Charles LeMoyne de Longueuil.

In 1775, the seignior was M. de Beaujeu, brother of the famous de Beaujeu, who, in 1755, took part in the memorable battle of the Monongahela. In 1759, he had been entrusted with the command of an important post—that of Mechilimakenac in the west; for his services and devotion to the cause of the French king he was decorated.

De Beaujeu, at the head of his retainers, was a sturdy chieftain; old memoirs mention him during the winter of 1775-6 crossing over and joining the succor, which de Gaspe, seignior of St. Jean-Port-Joly, Couillard, seignior of St. Thomas, and an old Highland officer, Thomas Ross, of Beaumont, made a noble effort to pour into Quebec. The skirmish with Arnold's continentals and their Canadian allies took place at St. Pierre, Rivière du Sud, and is known in Canadian annals as *l'affaire de Michel Blais*. It was a rout for the Loyalists; the blockade of Quebec continued until the 6th May, 1776.

The chief settlement, comprising about 100 dwellings, is on the north side of the island; a thick belt of trees intercepts the view from the south channel, except the seigniorial manor and out-houses at the east end—inhabited each summer by its stalwart and hospitable seigneur, Macpherson LeMoyne, Esquire, J.P.

It is a charming, healthy retreat, from May until December. Few sites in our gorgeous Canadian scenery can surpass its river views, extending to Cape Tourmente, Cape Maillard, and over the innumerable islets on the north side, bask-

ing in sunshine in the blue distance; such is Governor de Montmagny's game preserve of 1646.

The channel is considerably reduced in breadth by vast mud-flats, visible at low tide, and extending four miles across from Montmagny. The successive encroachments of the river on the shore here, have led to singular changes. At high tide the St. Lawrence covers the site where the former parish church and cemetery existed as late as 1820; in fact, it invades the shore far beyond. Montmagny of late years has become the shire town—*chef-lieu* of the county, and is provided with a resident District Judge, Court House, jail and other civilizing appliances.

Here flourished, and died in August, 1865, its most distinguished son, Sir E. P. Tache, a red hot *patriote* in 1837, A.D.C. to the Queen and Premier of Canada after the union of the provinces. One of the most attractive views of the river landscape is that to be had from the verandah of the stately old Patton Manor, embowered in trees and standing sentry over the harbour.

On and on the traveller is wafted past a string of wooded, uninhabited isles,* until reaching abreast of Grosse Isle, the Government quarantine station, established therein in 1832, to intercept or disinfect cholera or fever-stricken emigrant ships. Cholera in 1834, 1849 and 1854 gave the authorities busy times, as well as the ship fever of 1847. That year was rendered painfully memorable by the mortality among the Irish emigrants landing on our shores; the ghastly memories still linger about the island, where 7,000 victims of ship fever lie buried in one trench. The medical superintendent's steam launch is on

*The Marguerite Island, Two Heads Island, Heron Island, Canoe Island, Race Island, Mile Island, Onion Island; Canoe Island exhibits one solitary dwelling.