

surveyor, the soldier, the statesman, has each in his turn made his impress on the beautiful district which is inclosed between Niagara, Lake Ontario and Grand River. In 1669 that famous gentleman-adventurer of the French regime, René Robert Cavelier de La Salle, first saw the shimmer of the waters of the bay, then surrounded by virgin forest, just touched by the finger of autumn.<sup>2</sup> Among his companions were Dollier de Casson, a soldier-priest, who wrote the first history of Montreal, and Galinée, another Sulpician priest, who was something of a surveyor, and gave to the world a journal of his western trip as well as a rude delineation of the Upper Lakes. Galinée no doubt owed much to the map<sup>3</sup> which was shown him by the famous Canadian trader, Louis Joliet, whom La Salle and his companions met at the Indian town of Tinatona, which local antiquarians place about a mile east of Westover, near the eastern boundary of Beverley, a township still rich in relics of the days of Indian occupation.<sup>4</sup> In this interesting map we see clearly outlined for the first time the beautiful bay, so intimately associated with the prosperity, pleasure and pride of Hamilton. The history of Joliet and La Salle has no further connection with the history of the Heights and Bay; they separated soon after this memorable meeting at Tinatona to prosecute the dreams which they had of adventures and discoveries in the West. On a June day, 1673, Joliet and Marquette, trader and missionary, glided down the tranquil waters of the Wisconsin into the eddies of the Mississippi, which they followed as far as the villages of the Arkansas. Nine years later, La Salle also steered his canoe

“ Past the Ohio shore, and past the mouth of the Wabash,  
Into the golden stream of the broad and swift Mississippi ”

and found his way to the Gulf of Mexico and gave to France the great region of Louisiana which owes its historic name to this intrepid explorer.

For more than a century after this memorable meeting of adventurous Frenchmen, in the forests of Ontario, this beautiful district disappears from history. Indians alone fished in the prolific waters of the bay and lake, or brought down the wild fowl in the luxuriant marshes of the valley or strath of Dundas—known to sportsmen in later times as ‘Coots’s Paradise.’ Before the end of the eighteenth century the pioneer came to the noble country which lies between the turbulent Niagara and the more peaceful Bay, now a land of rich fruitage and lovely vistas of lake through forest groves and luxuriant orchards. The close of the successful revolution of the old Thirteen Colonies brought to the banks of the St. Lawrence and the Niagara Rivers a large body of devoted men and women, who remained faithful to Great Britain