

Bersiamites, Tadousacs, Papinachois, Chisedecs, Ecoumains, and Nekoubanistes, though they were usually designated by the collective term Montagnais, or Lower Algonkins. Their linguistic relation appears to be closer with the Crees than with any other branch of the Algonquian family. The Nascapes appear also to be closely related to them.

The Montagnais are doubtless the Agouionda of Cartier, a name which he says the Indians of Hochelaga applied to those of Saguenay. They are spoken of in the first Jesuit Relation (Biard, 1611-1616) as friends of the French. Missionary labors among them were begun in 1615, and continued, with occasional interruptions, until 1776. They were at war at an early date, and probably in prehistoric times, with the Micmacs, and to some extent with the Eskimo; but their chief and inveterate foes were the Iroquois, who drove them for a time from the banks of the St. Lawrence, pursuing them to their strongholds about the upper Saguenay, compelling them to seek safety at more interior points. Sagard describes them as the lowest type of Indians in Canada, and Parkman says that they were the lowest and most degraded people of the Algonquian stock. They were to a large extent nomadic, unwilling, even under missionary influences, to settle down and cultivate the soil for subsistence. In 1812 they were estimated roundly at 1,500; in 1837, at 1,100; in 1884, the number officially reported was 1,395; in 1897, the Montagnais and Nascapes together numbered 1,741. At the last mentioned date they were gathered chiefly on the reserve at Lake St. John, Chicoutimi County, Quebec Province, the number at this point being 404. Although on a reserve and having a school with a competent teacher, they have made but little progress toward farming, still depending largely on hunting and fishing for subsistence, with such income as they receive as guides and for bark canoes, snow-shoes, moccasins, etc.

The Nascapes, the most northeastern Algonquian tribe, ranged over the interior of Labrador north of the Montagnais to Ungava Bay, and from Lake Mistassini to the Atlantic coast. Their usual habitat has been the interior tableland of the peninsula, it being only in recent years that they have visited the banks of the St. Lawrence. They have been, until very recently, semi-nomadic, their habits and customs being similar to those of the Montagnais. It is the general belief of the Nascapes that they were driven to their northern habitat by the Iroquois, who formerly waged war upon them. They have a definite tradition that their original home was west of Hudson Bay, and that when they reached northern Labrador they found the region uninhabited save by some Eskimo, chiefly along Hudson's Strait. It is possible that the Indians seen by Gaspar Cortereal in 1499, seven of whom he carried to Portugal, were of this tribe, as the description given will not apply to the Eskimo. There was but little intercourse between them and the French.

Although the Iroquois played such an important role in the history of Canada, holding for a time the balance of power between the French and English, and certainly had their pristine home north of the lakes,* and have in part found their final resting place in Canada—yet, in the limited sense of the term *Iroquois*, the six (originally five) confederated tribes do not belong in historic times to Can-

* See page — and following.