

### **Ottawa in 1613.**

Packman writes as follows in his fascinating history of Champlain's trip up the Ottawa from Ville Marie (Montreal) and his first sight of the Rideau and Chaudiere Falls in 1613, some three hundred years ago: "The canoes were launched again, and the voyagers held their course. Soon the still surface was flecked with spots of foam; islets of froth floated by, tokens of some great convulsion. Then, on their left, the falling curtain of the Rideau shone like silver betwixt its bordering woods, and in front, white as a snowdrift, the cataracts of the Chaudiere barred the way. They saw the unbridled river careering down its sheeted rocks, foaming in unfathomed chasms, wearying the solitude with the hoarse outcry of its agony and rage. On the brink of the rocky basin, where the plunging torrent boiled like a caldron, and puffs of spray sprang out from its concussion like smoke from the throat of a cannon, Champlain's two Indians took their stand and, with a loud invocation, threw tobacco into the foam, an offering to the local spirit, the Manitou of the cataract."

### **Ottawa's Real Birth.**

To our visitors it is interesting to know that the birthdate of Canada's Capital - "Picturesque Ottawa"—is properly given as 1826 when Colonel By came out to take charge of the Rideau Canal construction. Where the Parliament Buildings now stand he built three Barracks for his soldiers and on Major Hill—near where the magnificent Chateau Laurier now rears its massive walls—he built his own habitation.

In August 1827 Sir John Franklin laid the corner-stone of the Canal locks and around this work a settlement at once sprang up.

Upper Town—composed of a few blocks on Wellington, Vittoria, Lyon and Kent streets—was laid out. Much of this property is that which has recently been expropriated