

NOTES ON THE HISTORY, CUSTOMS, AND BELIEFS
OF THE MISSISSAGUA INDIANS.

Messisaga Avenue, in the town of Parkdale, Old Fort *Mississauga*, at the mouth of the river Niagara, *Mississauga* River, in the district of Algoma, and *Mississauga* Strait, between Cockburn and Manitoulin islands, preserve the name of an Indian tribe who, in the latter half of the eighteenth century, occupied a considerable portion of what is now the province of Ontario, and whose descendants still exist at the *Mississagua* settlement of the New Credit, and on the reservations at Alnwick (since 1830), Rice Lake (since 1818), Chemong Lake (since 1829), and Scugog Lake (since 1842).

In the "Jesuit Relations" for the years 1670-71 are mentioned the *Mississagués*, who dwelt on the river Mississauga, and were then distinguished from other branches of the Algonkin stock on the north shore of Lake Huron. Subsequently they appear to have gradually moved eastward and southward, and to have extended themselves over a great part of Upper Canada.

With regard to the relations between the Missisaguas and Iroquois, the Rev. Allen Salt, of Parry Island, a member of the Missisagua tribe of Alnwick, makes the following statement:—

The Indian way of pronouncing the word (*missisaga*) is *minzeagee* (plural, *minzeageeg*), and signifies, in the plural, persons who inhabit the country where there are many mouths of rivers, as the Trent, Moira, Shannon, Napanee, Kingston River, and Gananoque. The Missisagas are regarded as descendants of the Ojebways, who in 1759 conquered the Iroquois, after a long war of a hundred years. According to tradition, the Ojebways of Lake Superior came in bark canoes to Georgia Bay, and destroyed the Iroquois, as the latter had done the Hurons. At the same time the Northern Ojebways followed the course of the rivers running southerly, destroying their enemies. The Mohawks, who were at Catarauqui, escaped to the other side of Lake Ontario, but in course of years returned, asked for peace, and obtained a tract of land extending from the Shannon River to the Napanee, and some distance back of the bay (as far as the report of a gun can be heard), where they are now living. The Iroquois on the south shore of Lake Ontario also asked the Missisagas of the north shore for a tract of land, and obtained that on the Grand River, where they are now established.

When the Credit chiefs, Missisagas, were on their way to the west to see the land reserved, they stopped at the Grand River. The Six Nation chiefs asked them: "Where are you going?" "We are going west to look for a better land for our people." The