

sound, the word has evidently varied little from the time when it first fell upon the ear of Europeans. When we meet with Taranto or Taronto in an old map or in an old document we must remember that *a* had the broad sound of *aw* which in Canadian French is so characteristic; we shall then see that we have nothing before us but the name Toronto after all. Again, we are to remember that the documents as we now read them have been printed from manuscript not always easy to decipher. The writer of a despatch from Quebec to Paris two hundred years ago may have been in the habit of so forming his *o*'s that they were sure to be taken for *a*'s by a copyist; and thus syllables in local and other names really written with *o*'s may appear in our books now, here and there printed with *a*'s. I, only the other day, received a letter from a distinguished literary man at Ottawa, in which throughout the word Toronto was, from habit, written in such a way that its three *o*'s would certainly be taken for three *a*'s by one not acquainted with the actual form of the word. And the same thing may have occurred here and there in the old maps. The engraver may have now and then mistaken an *o* for an *a* in his manuscript copy. It may have been thus that Lake Toronto, *i.e.*, Lake Simcoe, is given as Lac Taronto in N. Bellin's map, 1744, compiled by him from manuscript maps in the department of the Marine at Paris, to accompany Charlevoix's Journal. Certainly the word is given very plainly Toronto in other preceding maps, as, for example, in Herman Moll's, 1720; and in the map accompanying Lahontan's voyages, 1692. Thomas Jefferys' map of Canada and the North part of Louisiana, published in London in 1762, has Lake Simcoe marked Lake Taranto, probably a misreading of the manuscript copy on the part of the engraver; and so late as 1794, in Kitchin's map, published in London, we have a blunder in the word Toronto; when denoting the site of the fort on