

IV.—*The Downfall of the Huron Nation.*

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(Annual popular lecture, delivered May 23, 1906.)

Eight miles from Quebec is a little village overlooking the valley of the St. Charles River. In the cabins clustered about the church dwell the Hurons of Lorette, a remnant of an old Indian tribe.

We come west nearly 750 miles to the Detroit river. In Sandwich we may see still standing the old Huron Mission House. Here and there along the river we find settlers who are very proud to trace their origin back to the aristocratic Wyandotts. A short distance above Amherstburg the electric railway takes you past the Wyandott burial ground where, conspicuous above the rest, rises the tall shaft marking the grave of Mondoron¹ Joseph White, Chief of the Hurons or Wyandotts. On the Michigan side of the river is the City of Wyandott. tradition, place name, and local history all bear traces of the early and continued presence of the Hurons or Wyandotts along both banks of the river.

A little further south, in Ohio, we come to the Counties of Huron and Wyandot. We cross the Mississippi, and in Kansas we find another Wyandot County and a Wyandot City.

Further south we reach the Indian Territory in the north east corner of which is the Wyandott Settlement or Reserve, where the Wyandotts and their old enemies the Senecas live peaceably side by side.

Quebec, the Detroit, and the Indian Territory are far removed from one another. We enquire as to the story of these three groups of Hurons and we learn that they all trace back to Lake Huron, to that section of the Province of Ontario which lies between lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay. It is the story of the dispersion, the decimation, or the downfall of the Hurons, that I have been asked to tell you to-night.

This story of the Hurons takes us back 260 years and more to the very earliest chapters in the history of the inhabitants of Ontario. Preceding it there is little that can be substantiated. When we would go further back we enter the field of tradition and of speculation.

The story that I am briefly to recount is not a new tale, it is not a piece of original investigation—it is merely an attempt to present in

¹ Inscription as follows:—Mondoron, chief of the Wyandotts or Hurons, Joseph White, Born January 19, 1808; Died February 18, 1885.