

## The Pioneers and Voyageurs.

A glance at the map of the Dominion of Canada shows us at once that it is pre-eminently a land of waterways. Fortunate it was for the early settlers, that this is the case, for they formed his highway and only means of communication.

Considering first the early settlements in Quebec, during the seventeenth century, we find that in the more exposed parts houses were gathered together in palisaded villages. "The seignior divided his seigniorly into small allotments, and the settler naturally preferred to build when he could on the front of his farm, near the river, which supplied the place of a road. As the grants were very narrow, his house was not far from that of his next neighbor, and thus a line of dwellings was ranged along the shore forming a *côte*, a use of the word peculiar to Canada." "The seignior had a variety of tasks to perform; to clear and cultivate his land; to build his seigniorial mansion, often a log hut; to build a fort; to build a chapel and a mill." To do all this at once was impossible, so the first settlers were usually forced to grind grain for themselves after the tedious fashion of the Indians.

"For a year or two the settler's initiation was a rough one; but, when he had a few acres under tillage he could support himself and his family on the produce, aided by hunting, if he knew how to use a gun, and by the bountiful profusion of eels which the St. Lawrence never failed to yield in the season, and which smoked or salted, supplied his larder for the winter months. In winter he hewed timber, sawed planks, or split shingles, for the market of Quebec, obtaining in return such necessaries as he required. With thrift and hard work he was sure of comfort at last. Yet thrifty or not they multiplied apace. "A poor man," says Mother Mary, "will have eight children and more, who run about in winter with bare heads, and bare feet and a little jacket on their backs, live on nothing but bread and ells, and on that grow fat and stout." With such treatment the weaker sort died; but the strong survived, and from them sprang the hardy Canadian race of bush-rangers, and bush-fighters.

"The manners of the mission period (1670-1700) were extremely simple. The old governor, Lauzon, lived on pease and bacon like a laborer, and kept no man-servant. He was regarded as a miser, it is true, and held in slight account. Magdelene Bochart, sister of the Governor of Three Rivers, brought her husband two hundred francs in