

THE SHORES OF LACHINE, POINTE-CLAIRE AND ST. ANNES.

LA PRÉSENTATION.

That portion of the parish of Lachine which the Legislature of Quebec has lately incorporated under the name of the village of Dorval, is, without doubt, the most ancient and perhaps the most historical part of the whole island, outside of the site of the city of Montreal.

Champlain was the first European who, in 1611, went over the north shore of Lake St. Louis exploring from Lachine Rapids to the Lake of Two Mountains. He was unable to find a single habitation.

This locality was opened up to colonization about 1666, at the time that Cavalier de La Salle founded the village of Lachine, near the Canadian Pacific Bridge of our days. The three islands opposite bore the name of "Courcelles," from M. de Courcelles, who first conceded them to Pierre Picoté de Bellestre. As the Seminary of St. Sulpice needed these islands to further the interests of the establishment commenced on the Island of Montreal, they secured their concession on the 9th January, 1673, with the assent of Picoté de Bellestre, in favor of M. de Fenslon, who at once opened up the clearing which is seen in the lower part of the largest of these islands, and completed the establishment commenced on the island of Montreal. This establishment consisted in a fief called at first "Gentilly" and later "La Présentation," of 19 arpents by 20, forming to-day, the lands situated between the heirs Herron and Dosithée Legault *dit* Deslauriers inclusively. It was destined for the education of the Indian children, who up to that time lived at the Seminary of Ville Marie. On this fief, was constructed a wooden house, 53 feet long, with two cellars, one in masonry and the other in wood, a stone chimney, *cabanes* or log chantiers, outhouses, a barn and two stables, covering 93 feet in