

I observe in the French letter of M de Belettes to Major Rogers, at Detroit, in 1761, the expression "Beaucoup de nations," which seems to translate "Toronto" so well, used in reference to Indian bands: "On leur a annoncé qu'il y avait beaucoup de nations à votre suite, à qui on avait promis de pillage."

A second additional interpretation of the term Toronto must now be noticed: "trees rising out of the water." When in the course of events the name Toronto was transferred, as we have seen, from the Lake Simcoe region to the spot to which it is now applied, a fancied resemblance in sound to a Mohawk word having some such sense as that just intimated, led persons acquainted with the Mohawk dialect to imagine an allusion in the word to the peninsula in front of Toronto, with its dwarf trees as seen at a distance on the lake. But all this was manifestly an afterthought, and mere guesswork, like so many other explanations of Indian words offered us by interpreters and others, especially by those familiar only with one of the aboriginal modes of speech.

One observation must be added in regard to the original full form of the word Toronto. The word Toronto, as we now have it, in official documents dated nearly two hundred years back, seems to have suffered a loss at both ends. Not only has a final *n* dropped off, but an initial *o* has disappeared. In Sagard, besides the instance already given of Toronton in the sense of *beaucoup*, we have "Otoronton" also, with exactly the same meaning, as in the expression "O-toronton dachenequoy — l'en mange beaucoup:" "I eat much of it." "Ouentarunk," a name applied to Lake Simcoe, preserved in D. W. Smyth's Gazetteer, 1799, probably shews traces of the losses at the beginning and end of the present word Toronto. Let *ouen* be taken to represent the nasal sound so often heard at the beginning of Indian words, and let the *unk* at the end stand for the nasal sound heard with equal frequency in that place, and we virtually have Otoronton under a disguise. In the word Niagara, it may be remembered, as in Toronto, an initial Indian *o* has been dropped off. The word was formerly Oniagara. In like manner Chippaway used to be Otehipway, which it has again become. In Alexander Henry's "Travels," Tessalon river, running into Lake Huron, is the Otessalon. So Chonéguen, at the mouth of the Oswego river, is in the Jesuit Relations "Och-onéguen," where doubtless we have the full form of "Oswego" itself, from which the *n* at the end has been dropped, as in Toronto. To conclude: our Consecon, in Prince Edward County, ought, I am informed, to be written Oonsecon. Some utterly baseless and unhistorical interpretations of "Toronto" circulated by writers of books of travels and others, are the