

without. We may therefore trace, with some degree of definiteness, the extension of the greater Indian families as they existed when first discovered, grouping together, for this purpose, many tribes which, though speaking the same or cognate languages, and with a general similarity in habits and modes of life, were not unfrequently at bitter enmity among themselves, and in some cases had almost forgotten their original organic connection.

In North-eastern America, the great Algonkin family was numerically the most important, occupying a vast extent of country, from beyond the western end of Lake Superior, along its northern shores, to the region of the Ottawa—which appears to have been the original focus of this group of Indians—filling the great wilderness between the St. Lawrence River and Gulf and the southern part of Hudson's Bay, occupying New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the present New England States, and stretching even further southward, to the confines of Florida.

There appear to have been seven main tribal divisions, which are said to have numbered each from 3,000 to 6,000 warriors, and are those referred to collectively by the Jesuits, who had comparatively little knowledge of the tribal intricacies of this part of the continent, as *ces grands bourgs des Naragenses*. Many of the names of these tribes and of their smaller subdivisions are still perpetuated in a more or less travestied form in the names of places; and in the history of the early days of the English colonies some of them appear continually. In addition to these, inhabiting Maine and New Hampshire, was the great Abenakis tribe, afterwards of some importance in Canadian history, when pressed northward by the disturbances incident to the establishment of the English Colonies. Closely allied to these, were the Malecetes and Micmaes of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. To the north of the Gulf and lower part of the River St. Lawrence were a number of roving tribes, afterwards known collectively as the Montagnards; in the Ottawa region, the Algonkins proper, and further to the north-west the Chippewas or Ojibways centred, when first discovered, near the Sault Ste. Marie, whence the name *Sauteux* applied to them by the French. These last were pressing westward, waging incessant warfare with the Sioux, and gradually dispossessing them of their hunting grounds about the sources of the Mississippi.

South of the Algonkin territory was the great Iroquois nation, extending from the southern part of Lake Champlain to