

up of two varieties of soil : (1) a belt of rich clays, bordering on both shores of the River St. Lawrence ; (2) a belt of poor sands, bordering on the mountain ranges.

The Hurons of Lorette, though still within the flat, or champaign region, are not on its inner, fertile zone, but on its outer sandy zone. At their village, called Indian, or Jeune Lorette, the line of demarcation between the two zones is very apparent. Here the River St. Charles passes through a steep and narrow gorge, to a lower level. From the terrace on which Jeune Lorette stands, if we look down the course of the St. Charles, there appear to us on the dark rich loams, in close succession, the farms of St. Ambroise, Ancienne Lorette, Charlesbourg, Ste. Foye and Beauport. On the contrary, should we turn northward and ascend the course of the St. Charles, farms would no longer be observed on the sandy riverside, but instead an aftergrowth of spruces, and the summer villas of some professional men of Quebec.

At Caughnawaga, nine miles from Montreal, on the opposite shore of the St. Lawrence, where thrives a community of some 2000 Iroquois, the physical conditions are not at all similar to those amid which the Hurons of Lorette have been made to develop. In fact they are almost the complete reverse.

The champaign region, and, with it, its inner fertile belt of marine clays, on both banks of the St. Lawrence, increase rapidly in width as we proceed from Quebec to Montreal. In a general way these are described by Canadian geologists as covering a triangular area, the apex of which is towards Quebec, while the base runs from Ottawa to the head of Lake Champlain. It will thus be seen that Caughnawaga stands in the centre of a wide plain, is surrounded on all sides by a flat country provided with a rich soil.

It may be added that the mountainous region which bounds the plain to the South-East, is of slight altitude, and underlaid not by very hard granites and schists, like those of the Laurentian formation, but by softer rocks, limestones and slates, of the Cambrian and Silurian series, which by weathering have yielded abundant and generally rich soils. So that wide ranges of this mountainous country are well adapted for farming and at an early date were taken possession of by agricultural settlers.