

but in the unchanging decrees of the Eternal. The street bustle is sufficient, and the business activity enough, to convince anyone that Montreal is a great modern city.

The origin of the word Montreal. — History says that Jacques-Cartier having visited the Indian village situated at the very place where Montreal is to-day, expressed the desire to ascend the mountain near by, and was conducted thither by the natives. From its summit he discovered an immense extent of fine country, interspersed with rivers, woods, hills and islands, the site of which filled him with feelings of joy and gratification. In honor of his king, the king of France, he gave to the elevation, the name—which has since extended to the city—Mont-Réal (two french words meaning Mount Royal).

The population.—The population at the end of French rule in 1760 was some 3,000 ; in 1790, 9,000 ; in 1809, about 12,000 ; in 1842, 50,000 ; in 1871, 107,000. To-day, as has already been said, it is over 350,000. Its shipping trade, founded on the ancient annual barter between the Indian tribes here, amounted in 1840 to 31,266 tons, in 1902 to some 4,000,000 tons divided between ocean-going and inland vessels ; while the number of its transatlantic lines was 15. Prior to 1851 only vessels under 600 tons, and drawing not more than 11-feet of water, could pass up to Montreal ; but by degrees, a channel 30 feet deep has been dredged all the way up so as to admit of the largest ships reaching the port from the Atlantic Ocean. At the same time the inland canals have been deepened to some 14 feet.

But Montreal is not only the chief port. It is also the head office of two transcontinental lines, the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways. Other important companies are also situated here. Among its banks it is only necessary to name the Bank of Montreal, one of the most important banks of the world, the Merchants Bank, the Hochelaga Bank, the Molsons Bank, the Provincial Bank, etc.

The St. Lawrence River.—The River St. Lawrence is 1500 miles long, and drains an area of 330,000 square miles. From Montreal to Quebec, a distance of 160 miles, its width varies from one to two miles ; from a short distance below Quebec to the Gulf of St. Lawrence it varies from 10 to 35 miles in width. Half way