

Erie. Of these, the Hurons, when first brought to the knowledge of the French, were found settled in palisaded villages around Lake Simcoe,—or Ouentarono, as it appears to have been called.

The name Huron, like that of Iroquois, is of French formation, though of more uncertain origin. "*Quelles hures!*" exclaimed an astonished Frenchman, at the sight of a party of them decorated according to their highest savage art: and hence, says one of the Jesuit fathers, came the name. Another derivation traces it to the *koué*, or familiar ending of all Indian orations, already referred to, and the common termination *ono*, or *onon*, as the French give it, signifying people. They appear to have called themselves Ouendat, or, according to English pronunciation, Wyandots. They consisted of four septs or nations: the Attignaouentans, or Nation of the Bear,—the chief member of the league,—the Attignenonghaes, the Ahrendarrhonons, and the Tohotaenrats; occupying thirty-two villages, when visited by the Jesuit Missionaries, in 1639. To those a fifth nation: the Tionontates, or Tionontones, was united at a later date. But the term *nation* is apt to lead to an exaggerated idea of numbers. Brébeuf reckoned them in all, in 1635, at thirty thousand; and they are stated in the Relation of 1660 at thirty-five thousand. The five nations of the Iroquois were estimated by La Hontan, about the same time, as numbering in all seventy thousand; but all such estimates were necessarily based on very imperfect data. The number of Huron towns changed from time to time under the vicissitudes of war and disease; and the Tohotaenrats only occupied a single palisaded village.

Agriculture was sedulously pursued by all the members of the confederation; and indeed one of the hardships dwelt on by the French Missionaries who visited their villages is that they could rarely get any animal food; but lived principally on *sagamité*, a preparation of pounded Indian corn and smoked fish boiled together. A pumpkin baked in the hot ashes, or Indian corn roasted in the ear, varied such entertainment in the autumn; and when the Jesuits settled among them as a permanent mission, they learned to hunt for themselves. The rivers and lakes of the Huron country still abound in fish; nor is the game even yet exterminated in neighbouring regions. But the untiring vigilance of their Iroquois foe greatly restricted their hunting grounds, and forced them to the diligent cultivation of the soil. To this was probably due such traces of incipient civilization as are suggested to us by numerous traces of systematic agricultural labour.