

ation with the Passamaquoddy region, and also (by way of Schoodic lakes and Machias river) with Machias port. Another portage formerly much used by the Indians and their French allies, was that from the larger Cheputnaticook lake to the river Mattawamkeng, an eastern branch of the Penobscot. From the Penobscot waters there is but a short portage to an eastern branch of the Kennebec. It will thus be seen that the rivers of ancient Acadia were nature's own highway for the aboriginal inhabitants.

The Indians inhabiting the region from the river St. John to the Kennebec are all Maliseets, and although there exist some local peculiarities of dialect, they readily understand each other, and are practically one people. The word Maliseet is derived from *Mal-i-see-jik*, which means "he speaks badly." The name is said to have been applied to the St. John river Indians, and those to the westward by the Micmacs. The writer of this paper was informed not long since by the Chief of the Indians at Folly Point, on the Petitcodiac, that to the ordinary Micmac of today, the Maliseet dialect is quite unintelligible. Among the St. John river Indians there is a tradition that the Micmacs and Maliseets were originally one people; the latter, to quote the words of one of their tribe, "went off by themselves and picked up their own language," which the Micmacs regarded as "broken language," and so gave to them the name of Maliseet.

In early times the three principal villages of the Maliseets of Acadia were Narantsonak, on the Kennebec; Panagamsdô, on the Penobscot, and Medoctec, on the St. John. It was not until after the establishment of the French at St. Anne's point (now Fredericton), that the Indian village of Aukpaque became of equal importance with that of Medoctec.

The site of Fort Medoctec was not at the mouth of Medoctec or Eel river, but at a point on the west bank of the St. John, four miles above. It guarded the eastern extremity of the famous portage, some five miles in length, by which canoes were carried in order to avoid the rapids that obstruct the lower twelve miles of Eel river. The village here was a natural rendezvous whenever anything of a warlike nature was afoot on the St. John. It formed a midway station between the great French stronghold at Quebec, and the Acadian settlements at the head of the Bay of Fundy, and it occupied a similar position as regards the Madawaska Indian village on the upper St. John, and Villebon's fort at the Nashwaak. Westward, as we have just shown, there was ready means of communication with Penobscot and Kennebec, Machias and Passamaquoddy. But Medoctec in early days possessed many local