

## MONTREAL.

## A Great Commercial, Manufacturing and Industrial Centre.

## ITS EARLY HISTORY AND WONDERFUL PROGRESS



ARKMAN tells us that in the summer of 1653 "all Canada" turned to fasting and penance, processions, vows and supplications. "The wretched little colony was like some puny garrison, starving and sick, compassed by inveterate foes, supplies cut off and succor hopeless!" At Montreal, a sort of Castle Dangerous, not more than fifty chivalrous Frenchmen were facing fearful odds in the shape of several hundred Iroquois. But, says the chronicle, "the Queen of Heaven was on their side, and the Son of Mary refuses nothing to His Holy Mother." Ultimately, peace reigned and, for a time, there was immunity from danger. What a picture contrasted with the scene of to-day! And through what dangers, facing and surmounting what obstacles, did the original founders of what is now the great industrial, commercial and maritime city of the Dominion, pass.

Situate as it is, in the midst of the mighty St. Lawrence, at the point at which the great river of the north, the Ottawa, adds its flood to the broad stream, Montreal affords unusual attractions to the summer tourist. The neighbourhood abounds in fine scenery, fishing, boating, and bathing may be had in abundance, and the delightful prolonged twilights and cool, sleep-inducing nights, make Montreal a charming place in which to spend a few weeks of the summer. It is historic ground, too. On the 3rd of October, 1535, Jacques Cartier first landed here and found an Indian village called Hochelaga. Struck by the beauty of the hill that formed a background for the Hochelaga wigwams, Cartier at once called the place Mount Royal. The first Europeans settled in Montreal in 1542, and exactly one century afterward the spot upon which the great city now stands was called Ville Marie, a name which it retained for a long time. In 1760 it was taken by the English. At this time it was surrounded by a wall, flanked with eleven redoubts, a ditch, a fort and a citadel. Nature was especially careful in preparing a site for it, and man's hand has been well guided as it raised the superstructure. Montreal stands at the head of navigation for ocean steamers, and a large number of sailing vessels find their way to this port. Here also begins the navigation of the great lakes and rivers. The city is built on an island, which is approached by the great Victoria Bridge, a structure that stands at the head of the bridge architecture of the world. It is 9,184 feet in length. It contains 24 spans of 242 ft. each, and one—the centre span, 60 feet above the water—of 330 feet. The bridge cost nearly \$7,000,000, and is one of the many lions of the city. The harbor is well worth seeing. The quays are solidly built of limestone, and, uniting with the locks and cut stone wharves of the Lachine Canal, present for several miles a display of continuous masonry that gives the city a most solid, substantial air. A broad terrace, faced with grey limestone, the parapets of which are surmounted by a substantial iron railing, divides the city from the river throughout its whole extent. We find many fine buildings in Montreal devoted to commerce, religion, charity and pleasure, and the principal streets are lined with well-built, beautiful and substantial edifices that betoken good taste and wealth on the part of the residents. The Cathedral of Notre Dame is possibly the best known of the great buildings of Montreal. It is capable of seating 12,000 persons, is 255 feet long and 145 feet broad, with twin towers that stand 220 feet high, and in fine weather there is an almost continual procession of people ascending these towers, gazing abroad over the city. The best view of the city is from a beautiful elevation called Mount Royal (the city takes its name from this hill), the walks and drives of which are beautiful and the prospect most enjoyable. Montreal is peopled by French Canadians and those who speak the Anglo-Saxon tongue. The two nationalities work in harmony, and on occasions of the winter carnivals or other attraction for visitors, each nationality vies with the other in a warm endeavor to make things interesting and enjoyable for the stranger.

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"Maisonneuve sprang ashore, and fell on his knees. His followers imitated his example; and all joined their voices in enthusiastic songs of thanksgiving. Tents, baggage, arms and stores, were landed. An altar was raised on a pleasant spot near at hand; and Mademoiselle Mance, with Madame de la Peltrie, aided by her servant, Charlotte Barre, decorated it with a taste which was the admiration of the beholders. Now all the company gathered before the shrine. Here stood Vimont in the rich vestments of his office. Here were the two ladies with their servant; Montmagny, no very willing spectator, and Maisonneuve, a warlike figure, erect and tall, his men clustering around him. They knelt in reverent silence as the Host was raised aloft; and, when the rite was over, the priest turned and addressed them—"You are a grain of mustard seed, that shall rise and grow till its branches overshadow the earth. You are few, but your work is the work of God. His smile is on you, and your children shall fill the land."

The main point to be remembered and commented upon by Mr. S. E. Dawson, in his excellent "Hand-Book for the City of Montreal," in connection with the early settlement of Montreal is, that it was offspring of religious enthusiasm. That is shown by the name *Ville-Marie*, the original name of the city as mentioned above. It was an attempt to found in America a veritable "Kingdom of God," as understood by devout Roman Catholics. The expedition was fitted out in France

solely for that purpose, and the inception of the enterprise has many romantic particulars of "voices and revelations" and "providential occurrences" by which the zeal of its founders was supported and stimulated. They had need for all their enthusiasm, and opportunity for its exercise against the powerful Iroquois tribes, who determined to extinguish the infant settlement in the blood of the settlers. The character of Maisonneuve was a noble one. Duty was the guiding star of his life. When the governor of Quebec sought to dissuade him from settling at the "siege perilous" of Montreal, he replied:—"Monsieur, your reasoning would be conclusive if I had been sent to deliberate upon the selection of a suitable site, but the Company having decided that I shall go to Montreal it is a matter of honour, and I trust you will not be displeased that I settle my colony there." And again when further pressed:—"Gentlemen, if all the trees of the Island of Montreal were changed into Iroquois I am bound by honour and duty to go." A stately and chivalrous figure—this grand religious knight of antique mould. Any city might be proud of such a founder. But no monument records his devotion, no square, or public place, commemorates his name. We have Papineau Square, Chaboull Square, Phillip's Square, Dufferin Square, Dominion Square, but no Place Maisonneuve. It would almost seem that "*devoir*" was only an *old* French word.

The city of Montreal is built upon a series of terraces which mark the former levels of the river, or of the ancient sea which washed the bases of the Laurentian hills to the north. The geological formation is Silurian, the surface rock being Trenton limestone. In rear of the mountain the Trenton limestone comes the surface, and it is from these beds that the grey stone is procured of which the city is chiefly built. Along the margin of the river black shales of a higher formation, the Utica, appear. The Island of Montreal exhibits no less than six different formations in the Lower Silurian. At St. Anne's, the western extremity, is the Potsdam sandstone. In that locality those curious perforations may be seen supposed to be worm burrows. Close to the Potsdam, near the railway station, the Calciferous formation comes up in a good locality for fossils. At the next station, Point Claire, the Chazy has a very extensive exposure; the stone for the Victoria Bridge was quarried there. A short distance further east the Black River limestone comes up, and at Montreal the Trenton limestone and Utica shales appear. The mountain which rises up behind the city consists of trap rock, which has forced its way through the limestone lying against it.

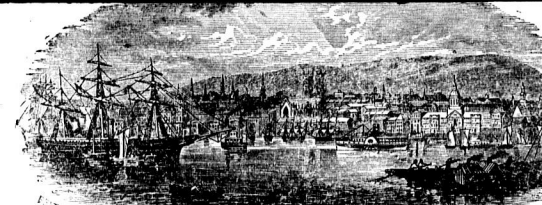
Mount Royal, from which the city derives its name, rises 700 feet above the river level. From its summit the whole Silurian plain spreads out in a panorama, broken only by the trap mountains, which suggest former volcanic disturbances. These hills lie in a line from N. W. to S. E., and mark a continuous dislocation in the rocks. Looking southwards, upon the left is Montarville; seven pretty lakes are concealed in the recesses of the mountain. Next is Belœil mountain with the ruins of a chapel upon the summit. A depression in the midst of this mountain is occupied by a lake of singular clearness and depth. Next, the Rougemont mountain rises from the plain almost concealing the Yamaska mountain behind it, and to the right the conical shape of Mount Johnson or Monnoir sharply breaks the level surface. Sixty



CITY OF MONTREAL FROM THE HARBOUR.

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MONTREAL—VICTORIA BRIDGE IN THE DISTANCE.

of the present city, where Jacques Cartier probably landed, still retains that name, and it has also been retained as the name of the county. Jacques Cartier made no settlement in Canada, and no visit by Europeans to Hochelaga is recorded until seventy years later, when Champlain made an expedition up the St. Lawrence. But the populous town described by Jacques Cartier had disappeared. Two aged Indians alone were found to conduct him to the summit of Mount Royal, and relate the story of the ruin of their people. Many traditions survive of the fratricidal war which broke out after Cartier's departure. If we are to believe the historian of the Wyandots—Peter Dooyentate

(Continued on page 18.)

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