

Mr. Wm. Beatty has in his possession a bronze mortar weighing probably not less than twenty or twenty-five pounds, which was discovered under the roots of a large pine tree in the township of Macdougall. This vessel may be described as resembling in shape an inverted bell with a flat base. Two projections on opposite sides have been moulded to represent grotesque animal heads, and round the middle of the mortar are six *fleur de lis* in relief, three on each side of the heads. On the outer margin of the lip are the words "FAICT LAN 1636,"—made in the year 1636. The letters of this inscription have been attached somewhat carelessly to the pattern before it was moulded, so that they present an irregular appearance. Although richly resonant when struck, the suggestion that this was used as a bell is not at all well borne out; in the first place, because of the base on which it was evidently intended to stand, mouth up; secondly, the position and direction of the head-like projections; thirdly, the absence of marks as the result of being struck, and in the last place, because of the direction in which the *fleur de lis* and inscription stand. It is, at any rate, quite certain that this mortar was carried to the vicinity in which it was found, by the Jesuit missionaries, although, so far as I know, there is no record of their having reached a point so far north before their dispersion from Ste. Marie, in 1649. Perhaps some of the fugitive priests made their way to this part of the country carrying with them a portion of the materials from the fort and church. During the panic consequent upon the destruction of St. Ignace and St. Louis, by the Iroquois, many of the Hurons escaped northwards, and the following passage from Parkman* may serve to account for the presence of this vessel so far away as the township of Macdougall:

"Several of the priests set out to follow and console the scattered bands of fugitive Hurons. One embarked in a canoe and coasted the dreary shores of Lake Huron northward, among the wild labyrinth of rocks and islets, whither his scared flock had fled for refuge; another betook himself to the forest with a band of half-famished proselytes, and shared their miserable roving through the thickets and among the mountains."

In all probability the statement contained in the italicised sentence is sufficient to account for the finding of this vessel upwards of sixty miles from the old mission headquarters.

Within the town limits, on the southern slope of Belvidere Hill, Mr. Ireland pointed out a number of shallow pits the shape and arrangement of which were suggestive of white influence. The elevation is a commanding one, and the position of the pits would enable men in possession of them to rake the whole face of the hill from its most approachable side facing the water. A few of these have been opened, but nothing was found in them. It is not likely they were ever more than two or three feet deep, but this in the forest with the addition of logs would afford tolerably good protection to marksmen.

PARRY ISLAND.

Parry is the largest island in the archipelago that fringes the portion of the Georgian Bay coast along Parry sound district. It forms an Indian Reserve of mixed character, consisting as the population does of Mississaugas, Pottawatomes and Ottawas. All the Mississaugas, ninety-six in number, are treaty Indians, while the Pottawatomes and Ottawas, numbering upwards of one hundred are

* Jesuits in North America, twenty-first edition, 1885, p. 395.

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