

up that river for some hundreds of miles on both sides, along the northern shores of Ontario, through the Western Peninsula, on all sides of Lake Superior, and westward to the Mississippi. Northward from the line thus traced there are to this day few Indians who do not speak dialects of the Algonquin tongue. It is the language of the Micmacs and Abenakis in the east, and of the Ojibways to the south and west of Lake Superior, and is heard throughout a great portion of the Hudson's Bay Territories in greater or less purity.

The Algonquins differ from the Iroquois in many ways, both in character and habits. They had comparatively little agriculture. To this day the difference is remarkably evident at the Lake of Two Mountains, where the village is inhabited by descendants of both nations. Nearly every family of Algonquins lives for the greater part of the year on its ancestral hunting grounds on the different tributaries of the Ottawa, whereas the Iroquois are to be found chiefly in the shanties, acting as voyageurs in the North-West, or tilling their reserves.

A few hereditary maxims or customs, enforced by public opinion, and a fitting respect and deference to their chiefs, constituted all the government of the Algonquins. They displayed less practical wisdom and intelligence than the Iroquois, but surpassed all the nations of this continent in their stories of beautiful legend and tradition and sweet poetry. Colden called them the "most warlike and polite nation in North America." The enthusiasm in their favor with which long association with them inspired such men as Heckewelder, Schoolcraft and Catlin, is testimony enough to their many excellent qualities, particularly to their gentle manners and generous hospitality.

Although less disposed towards agriculture than the Iroquois, the Algonquins displayed the greatest industry in their favorite pursuit of hunting. The importance of their trade with the French cannot now be estimated, but it seems to have been the chief support of Canada in her early days. "*Le Canada ne subsiste que par le grand commerce des pelleteries.*" (Lafontain.) We have no accurate statistics of the extent of their trade, but Lahontan mentions seeing a hundred and twenty-five or thirty canoes arrive at Montreal at one time, each containing forty packs of beaver skins, each pack weighing fifty pounds, and being worth fifty crowns. The cargo of this fleet, therefore, averaged about a ton to the canoe, and was worth 260,000 crowns, or \$275,600. After giving a lively description of this great annual fair at Montreal,—of the ceremony of the reception of the Indians by the Governor,—of the effect upon the scene of hundreds of savages dressed almost wholly in paint,—the Baron says: "This is a description of one of the best harvests of Canada. The rich and poor profit by it, for you must know that during that time everybody is a trader." (Letter 8, 28th June, 1685.) We may estimate the rate of French profits from Lafontain's statement that they sold their goods to the Indians at four hundred per cent. above their value.

The Algonquins and Hurons clung as faithfully to the French alliance as the Iroquois to the English. They not only rendered most important aid in all expeditions against the English and their allies, but in 1665 they sent one immense force to clear the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa from the war-parties of the Five Nations, who at times almost annihilated the fur trade with Canada. This expedition numbered, according to tradition, seven hundred war canoes (probably containing ten thousand men), which divided into three parts, and entered Canada by way of Detroit River, the Severn, and Lake Simcoe, and French River and the Ottawa. The immediate cause of this war appears to have been the killing, by a war party of Iroquois, of some Algonquins on their way back to Lake Superior, which occurred on the portage surmounting the Chaudiere Falls, (Ottawa.) The Algonquins inflicted a series of defeats on their enemies along Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence, and the Ottawa, and seem for a time to have put a stop to interference with the fur trade with Canada.

In 1755, the same year which found King Hendrick and his Mohawks fighting for the English at Lake George, the warriors of various Algonquin tribes almost demolished Braddock's army; and the allied bands who, under Pontiac, resisted the westward progress of the British in 1763, though going under the names of Ottawas, Pottawatamies, Miamis, Weas, &c., were all of the great Algonquinia family. I may here remark that the number of distinct Indian nations is not nearly so great as is usually supposed. The same tribe has often many names. Thus, the people whom the French called Algonquins call themselves Ojibways. Chippewa is a corruption of this name. The Iroquois call themselves Adirondacs. Different bands have received the names of Ottawas, Pottawatamies, &c., at various unknown times and for reasons now lost.

Pontiac displayed remarkable statesmanship in keeping together the different bands of his race, great courage, and consummate generalship. The line of English forts from Niagara to Green Bay, twelve in number, were attacked at the same time; nine of them being taken. During the summer of 1764, Detroit was kept closely invested. During this siege occurred the battle of Bloody Bridge, where the British commander was outgeneralled by Pontiac and defeated, losing half his force. The siege was abandoned, owing to the Indians dropping away as the hunting season came on. Pontiac's career was soon afterwards ended by the knife of one of his own people.

The tribes now remaining in Canada, speaking the Algonquin language and cognate dialects, are known under the names given in the following table, taken from reports of the Indian Department and of the Secretary of State. It will be seen that their numbers, like those of the Iroquois nations, are at last increasing.

| Aborigines. | Population, 1833. | Population, 1838. | Extent of Reserves. Area. |
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| Chippewas and Munsees, of the Thames | 558 | 606 | 12,017 |
| Moravians, of the Thames | 240 | 250 | 4,300 |
| Chippewas Pottawatamies and Ottawas, of Walpole Island | 709 | 874 | 10,000 |
| Chippewas, of Rama, Snake Island, & Christian do. | 581 (1837) | 571 | Uncertain. |
| Mississaugas, of Rice, Mud, and Scugog Lakes | 372 | 302 | Ditto. |
| Mississaugas of Alawick | 225 | 138 | Ditto. |
| Total carried forward | 2,625 | 2,760 | 23,675 |