

A New Discovery OF A Country greater than *EUROPE*

Situated in America, betwixt New-Mexico and the Frozen-Sea.

By Father Louis Hennepin

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The Occasion of undertaking this Voyage.

MEN are never weary of contemplating those Objects that are before their Eyes, because they discover a thousand ravishing Excellencies therein, capable to afford 'em both Satisfaction and Instruction. The Wonders they there meet with, are so surprising, and (as it were) enchanting, that they are necessarily engaged to survey the same with all possible Exactness, in order to satisfie their natural Curiosity, and inform their Minds.

The Condition of Travellers is very near the same. They're never weary of making new Discoveries. They're indefatigable in rambling through unknown Countries and Kingdoms not mention'd in History ; feasting their Minds with the Satisfaction of gratifying and enriching the World with something unheard of and whereof they had never any Idea before. 'Tis true, such Enterprizes expose 'em to infinite Fatigue and Danger : But herewith they solace themselves, and persevere to suffer all with Pleasure in that they hope to contribute thereby both to the publick Good, and to the glory of God, while at the same time they are gratifying their own natural Inclinations ; and hence it is, they are so powerfully bent to make these Discoveries, to seek out strange Countries and unknown Nations, whereof they had never before heard of.

Those whose Aim in undertaking Voyages, is to enlarge the Bounds of Christ's Kingdom, and advance the Glory of God, do upon that Prospect alone valiantly venture their Lives, making 'em of no Account. They endure the greatest Fatigues, and traverse the most unpassable Ways and horrid Precipices, in order to the Execution of their Designs ; being push'd on by the Hopes they entertain of Promoting by these means the Glory of him who created 'em, and under whose Conduct they undertake such toilsome Voyages.

It's usual to see some undaunted Men boldly encounter the most frightful of Deaths, both in Battles and in dangerous Voyages : they are such as are not discouraged by all the Hazards that surround 'em either by Sea or Land ; nothing being able to withstand the Valour and Courage that prompts 'em to attempt any thing. Therefore is it, that we ofttimes see 'em succeed in obtaining their Designs, and compassing their most difficult Enterprizes. Yet it's to be acknowledg'd, that if they took a serious View before hand, of the Perils they're about to encounter, and consider'd 'em in cold Blood, they would perhaps find Difficulty to persuade themselves into such resolute Thoughts ; at least, they would not form their Designs after such a daring and fearless manner. But generally speaking, they do not survey their Dangers beforehand, any otherwise than by the Lump, and with a transient View; and having once set their Hands to the Work, Occasion engages 'em insensibly, and entices 'em further on than they coul'd have believ'd at first. Insomuch that many of the great Discoveries owing to Voyages, are rather the Result of Chance, than any well form'd Design.

Something of the same Nature has happen'd to my self in the Discovery I now bring to Light. I was from my Infancy very fond of Travelling ; and my natural Curiosity induc'd me to visit many Parts of *Europe* one after another. But not being satisfied with that, I found my self inclin'd to entertain more distant Prospects, and was eager upon seeing remoter Countries and Nations that had not yet been heard of ; and in gratifying this natural Itch, was I led to this Discovery of a vast and large Country, where no *European* ever was before my self.

'Tis true indeed, I could not foresee the Embarassing Difficulties and Dangers I must of necessity encounter with in this my painful Voyage. Nay, perhaps the very Thoughts of 'em might have discourag'd and scar'd me from attempting a Design so laborious and toilsome, and environ'd with such frightful Difficulties. But maugre all these Discouragements, I've at length perfected my Design, the Undertaking of which was enough to frighten any other but my self. In which I've satisfy'd my Desires, both in regard to the curiosity I had to see new Countries, and strange Faces ; and also upon the Account of my Resolution to employ and dedicate my self to the Glory of God, and the Salvation of Souls.

Thus it was that I discover'd a wonderful Country never known till now ; of which I here give an ample Description; and (as I think) circumstantiated enough : It being divided into several small Chapters, for the Conveniency of the Reader. I hope the Publick will return me Thanks for my Pains, because of the Advantage that may accrue to it by the same. However the World's Approbation shall sufficiently recompense all the Trouble and Dangers I've gone through.

I am not insensible of the Reflections I shall meet with from such as never dar'd to travel themselves, or never read the Histories of the Curious and Brave, who have given Relations of the strange Countries they have taken upon them to see ; I doubt not but that sort of Cattle will account of this my Discovery as being false and incredible. But what they say shall not trouble me much : They themselves were never Masters of the Courage and Valour which inspires Men to undertake the glorious Enterprizes that gain 'em Reputation in the World, being confin'd within narrow Bounds, and wanting a Soul to atchieve any thing that can procure 'em a distinguishing and advantageous Character among Men. It were better therefore for such to admire what they cannot comprehend, and rest satisfy'd in a wise and profound Silence, than thus foolishly to blame what they know nothing of.

Travellers are generally accus'd of venting an Infinity of Lyes and Impostures : But Men of a magnanimous and firm Courage are above such silly Railerles : For when they've done all to blacken our Reputation, we shall still receive for our Reward, the Esteem and Approbation of Men of Honour, who being endow'd with knowing and penetrating Souls, are capable to give an equal and impartial Judgment of Travels, and of the just Merit of such as have hazarded their Lives for the Glory of God, and the Good of the Publick. It is this happy and agreeable Recompence that makes the daring Travellers [5] so valiantly expose themselves to all manner of Fatigues and Dangers, that by so doing, they may become useful to Mankind.

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The Motives which engag'd the Author of this Discovery to undertake the Voyage, whereof you have here a Relation.

I ALWAYS found in my self a strong Inclination to retire from the World, and regulate my Life according to the Rules of pure and severe Virtue : and in compliance with this Humour, I enter'd into the *Franciscan Order*, designing to confine my self to an austere Way of Living. I was overjoy'd then, when I read in History the Travels and Voyages of the Fathers of my

own Order, who indeed were the first that undertook Missions into any foreign Country. And oft-times represented to my self, that there could be nothing greater or more glorious than to instruct the Ignorant and Barbarous, and lead 'em to the light of the Gospel; and having remark'd, that the *Franciscans* had behav'd themselves in this Work with a great deal of Zeal and Success, I found this begat in my Mind a Desire of tracing their Footsteps, and dedicating my self after their Example, to the Glory of God, and the Salvation of Souls.

In reading the History of our Order, I observ'd, that in a general Assembly held in the Year 1621, it was reckon'd, that since the first going of the Reverend Father *Martin de Valence* (one of our first Reformers) into *America*, there had been five hundred Convents of Recollects, establish'd in that New World, and distributed into Two and twenty Provinces. As I advanc'd in Years, this Inclination to travel did so much the more fix it self in my Mind. It is true, one of my Sisters that was marry'd at *Ghent*, and whom I lov'd very tenderly, did dissuade me from my Design as much as she could, and never ceas'd to redouble her Sollicitations to that purpose, while I had occasion to be with her in that great City, whither I had gone to learn the *Dutch* Language : But being sollicitated on the other hand, by many of my Friends at *Amsterdam*, to go to the *East-Indies*, my natural Inclination, join'd to the Influence of their Requests, did move me much, and had almost determin'd me to undertake a Sea-Voyage.

Seeing then that all the Remonstrances of my Sister could not dissuade me from travelling, I first undertook a Journey into *Italy* ; and in Obedience to the Orders of my Superiour, visited all the great Churches, and most considerable Convents of our Order, both in that Country, and in *Germany* ; which did in some measure gratifie the Curiosity of my Temper. But having return'd to the Netherlands, the Reverend Father *William Herinx*, late Bishop of *Ipres*, manifested his averseness to the Resolution I had taken of continuing to travel, by detaining me in the Convent of *Halles* in *Hainault*, where I was oblig'd to perform the Office of Preacher for a Year. After which, with the Consent of my Superiour, I went into the Country of *Artois*, from whence I was sent to *Calais*, to ad the part of a *Mendicant* there in time of Herring-salting.

Being there, I was passionately in love with hearing the Relations that Masters of Ships gave of their Voyages. Afterwards I return'd to our Convent at *Biez*, by the way of *Dunkirk* : But I us'd oft-times to skulk behind the Doors of Victualling-Houses, to hear the Sea-men give an Account of their Adventures. The Smoak of Tobacco was offensive to me, and created Pain in my Stomach, while I was thus intent upon giving ear to their Relations : But for all I was very attentive to the Accounts they gave of their Encounters by Sea, the Perils they had gone through, and all the Accidents which befell them in their long Voyages. This Occupation was so agreeable and engaging, that I have spent whole Days and Nights at it without eating ; for hereby I always came to understand some new thing, concerning the Customs and Ways of Living in remote Places ; and concerning the Pleasantness, Fertility, and Riches of the Countries where these Men had been.

This confirm'd me more and more in my former Resolution ; and that I might advance it yet further, I went Missionary into most part of the Towns of *Holland* ; and stopp'd at length at *Mastreicht*, for eight Months together, where I administer'd the Sacraments to above Three thousand wounded Men : In which Occupation I ventur'd many Dangers among the Sick People, being taken ill both of a Spotted Fever and a Dysenterie, which brought me very low, and near unto Death : But God at length restor'd me to my former Health, by the Care and Help of a very skilful *Dutch* Physician.

The singular Zeal I had for promoting the Good of Souls, engag'd me the Year following to be present at the Battle of *Senesse*, where I was busied in administring Comfort to the poor wounded Men : Till at length, after having endur'd all manner of Fatigue and Toil, and

having run the risque of extreme Dangers at Sieges of Towns in the Trenches, and in Fields of Battel, (where I never ceas'd to expose my self for the good of Mens Souls) while these bloody Men were breathing nothing but Slaughter and Blood, I happily found my self in a condition to satisfie my first Inclination : For I then receiv'd Orders from my Superiours to go for *Rochel*, in order to embark in Quality of Missionary for *Canada*. Within Two Leagues of that City I perform'd the Fundion of a Curate near two Months ; being invited so to do by the Pastor of the Place, who had occasion to be absent from his Charge. But afterwards I totally resign'd my self to the Providence of God, and begun a Voyage of Twelve or Thirteen hundred Leagues over, and perhaps the greatest that can be made by Sea.

I embark'd in the Company of Mr. *Francis de Laval*, created then Bishop of *Petrée in partibus Infidelium*, and since Bishop of Quebec, the Capital City of Canada ; and now my Inclination to travel Increas'd more and more : Yet I staid in that Country four Years, and was sent thence in Mission, while the Abbot of *Fenelon*, present Archbishop of *Cambray*, resided there. [1]

I shall not here recount the several Adventures of our Voyage, nor the Fights we were engag'd in with the Ships of *Turkey*, *Tunis*, and *Algiers*, who attempted several times to have taken us ; but without success. Nor shall I stay to relate our Approach to *Cape Breton*, where we beheld with incredible Delight, the Battle ordinarily fought betwixt the Fishes call'd *Espadons* [swordfish] and the Whales, their mortal Enemies ; neither am I to detain my Reader with an Account of what vast Quantities of Fish we took at Forty Fathom Water, upon the Great Bank of *New-found-Land* ; or what great Numbers of Ships we rencounter'd with, that were bound thither from different Nations to fish in these Places, which afford such infinite Numbers of all manner of Fishes. These diverting Sights were very agreeable to all our Crew, which was then about an Hundred Men strong, to three Fourths of whom I administred the Sacraments, they being Catholicks. I perform'd likewise Divine Service every Day while the Weather was calm ; and we sung the Itinerary of the Clergy, translated into French Verse, after the Evening Prayers.

Thus we sweetly pass'd our Time a-board, 'till at length we arriv'd at *Quebec*, the Capital City of *Canada*.

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The Means by which the Author accustom'd himself to endure the Travail and Fatigue of his laborious Mission.

Mr. *Francis de Laval*, Bishop of *Petrée*, having taken possession of the Bishoprick of *Quebec*, which was conferr'd upon him by Pope *Clement X.* and that contrary to the Sentiments of many Persons of Quality, who, by means of his Preferment, were frustrated of their own Pretensions : This Reverend Prelate (I say) having taken into confederation the Fervency of my Zeal in Preaching the Gospel in my Voyage, my assiduous Diligence in performing Divine Service, and the Care I had taken to hinder the Young Fellows of our Crew from keeping loose Company with the Women and Maids that came along with us (for which I had oft-times been rewarded with Anger and Hatred ;) these Reasons, and such like, procur'd me the Favour and Applause of this Illustrious Prelate, he obliging me to preach in *Advent* and *Lent* to the Cloister of *St. Augustin*, In the Hospital of *Quebec*.

But in the mean while, all this did not satisfie my natural Inclination : I us'd oft-times to go some Twenty or Thirty Leagues off the Town to see the Country, wearing a little Hood, and making use of large Rackets, [2] without which I had been in danger of falling headlong over fearful Precipices. Sometimes to ease my self a little, I made a great Dog I had brought with me, drag my little Baggage along, that I might arrive the sooner at *Trois Rivières*, *St.*

Anne, and Cape *Tourmente*, Bourgroyal, [3] the Point *de Levi*, and at the Island of *St. Laurence*, [4] whither I design'd to go. There I assembled together, in one of the largest Cottages of that Country, as many People as I could gather ; whom in some time I admitted to Confession, and to the Holy Communion. In the Night-time I had nothing to cover me but a Cloak ; and sometimes the Frost pierc'd to my very Bones, which oblig'd me to make a Fire five or six times in a Night, to prevent my freezing to death. My Commons also were very short, scarce more than to keep me from starving.

In the Summer-season I was oblig'd, in order to continue my *Mission*, to travel in Canou's, that is, a sort of little Boats (which I shall describe hereafter) that they make use of in Lakes and Rivers : Which sort of Contrivance succeeded well enough where the Water was shallow, or about two or three Foot deep ; But when we came to any deeper Place, then the Boat, which was round underneath, was in danger of overturning, infomuch that I had certainly perish'd in the Water, had not I taken a circumspect Care of my self.

However, I found my self oblig'd to travel after this manner, for there were no passable Roads in this Country ; it being impossible to travel over-land in these wq^n Colonies, because of that infinite number of Trees and Woods that beset them on all sides, which must needs be cut down or burn'd before any passable Way be made.

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A Description of those Canou's that they make life of in the Summer-time in America, for the Conveniency of travelling.

THESE Canou's are round underneath, as I said but now, and pointed at the two Ends, not unlike the *Venetian* Gondals : Without them it were impossible to travel in *America*, for the Country is full of vast and wide-extended Forests : Besides, the impetuous Winds sometimes pluck up the Trees by the Roots, and Time it self ranverses great numbers of 'em, which tumbling down through Age, are piled so one upon another, that the Ways are totally embarass'd, and render'd unpassable.

The Savages are very ingenious in making these Canou's : They make them of the Bark of Birch-Trees, which they pull very neatly off that sort of Trees, they being considerably bigger than those of *Europe*. They betake themselves to this Work generally about the end of Winter, in the vast Forests that lie towards the Northern Parts of these Countries.

For supporting this Bark they line it within with Ribs or Pieces of white Wood, or Cedar, about four Fingers broad ; this they furbish up with small Poles made smooth, that make the Circumference of the Canou ; then by other Poles going a-cross, about an Inch, or an Inch and a half thick, which are very smoothly polish'd ; these they join on both sides to the Bark by small Roots of Trees cloven in two, not much unlike the Willows that we make our Baskets of in *Europe*.

These Canou's have no Rudder, as the bigger Shallops have, for they row them along merely by the force of their Arms with some small Oars ; and can turn them with an incredible swiftness, and direct them whither they list. Those that are accustom'd to manage them, can make 'em sail at a wonderful rate, even in calm Weather ; but when the Wind is favourable, they are expedite to a Miracle ; for they then make use of little Sails made of the same Bark, but thinner than that of the Canou's. As for the *Europeans*, that by long usage come to be well vers'd in this sort of Tackling, they make use of about four Ells of Linen Cloth, hoisted up on a little Mast, the Foot of which stands in a Hole made in a square piece of light Wood, that is fastned betwixt the Ribs and the Bark of the Canou's towards the Bottom.

Those that are well skill'd in managing these Canou's, can sail Thirty or Thirty five Leagues in a Day down a River, and sometimes more in Lakes, if the Wind be favourable : But some of 'em are much bigger than others. They carry generally about a Thousand pound Weight, some Twelve hundred, and the biggest not above Fifteen hundred pounds. The least of 'em can carry Three or four hundred pound weight, together with two Men or Women to steer them along. But the Greater must have Three or Four Men to manage them, and sometimes when Business requires Expedition, Seven or Eight to quicken their pace.

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Other Motives that induc'd the Author more forcibly to undertake this Discovery.

I WAS passionately zealous, in imitation of many Fathers of my Order, for enlarging the Limits of Christianity, and converting the barbarous *Americans* to the Belief of the Gospel ; and in pursuance of that Design, I look'd upon the Employment of a *Missionary* as a most Honourable Post for me ; so that whenever I found the opportunity of a Mission, I willingly embrac'd it ; tho' it oblig'd me to travel more than Twelve hundred Leagues off *Canada* : Yet I persuaded several to accompany me in my Voyage ; and neglected not any thing that might tend to the furtherance of my Design.

At first, for a Trial I was sent in Mission about a Hundred and twenty Leagues beyond *Quebec*. I went up by the way of the River *St. Laurence*, and arriv'd at length at the brink of a lake call'd by the Natives *Ontario*, which I shall describe hereafter. Being there, I perswaded several of the barbarous *Iroquese*, to cultivate the Ground, and prepare some Wood for building a Lodge for us. Then I made them erect a Cross of an extraordinary heighth and bigness ; and built a Chapel near to the Lake, and settled my self there, with another of my own Order, by Name, Father *Luke Buisset*, whom I had induc'd to come along with me, and who died since in our *Franciscan* Convent upon the *Sambre* : I shall have occasion afterwards to speak of him, for that we cohabited in *Canada* for a long time, and were Fellow-Labourers in our Settlement at *Catarokouy* [5] ; which was the Place where we oft-times concerted the Measures of making this Discovery I am about to relate. I there gave my self much to the reading of Voyages, and encreas'd the Ambition I had to pursue my Design, from what Light the Savages imparted to us in that matter : In fine, I plainly perceiv'd by what Relations I had receiv'd of several Particulars in different Nations, that it was a matter of no great difficulty to make considerable Establishments to the South-East of the great Lakes ; and that by the conveniency of a great River call'd *Hoio* [Ohio], which passes through the Country of the *Iroquese*, a Passage might be made into the Sea at *Cape Florida*.

While I resided in that place, I made several little Tours, sometimes with the Inhabitants of *Canada*, that we had brought along to settle at our Fort of *Catarokouy* ; sometimes in company of the Savages alone, with whom I convers'd frequently. And as I foresaw that the *Iroquese* might become jealous and suspicious of our Discoveries, I resolv'd to make a Tour round their Five Cantons ; and in pursuance of this Design, threw my self among 'em, being accompany'd only with a Soldier of our Fort, who travell'd with me Seventy Leagues, or near the Matter, on this Occasion; we having our Feet arm'd with large Rackets, to prevent the Injury of the Snow, which abounds in that Country in time of Winter.

I had already acquir'd some small knowledge of the *Iroquese* Language ; and while I travell'd in this manner among them, they were surpriz'd to see me walk in the Midst of Snow, and lodge my self in the wild Forests that their Country is full of. We were oblig'd to dig four Foot deep into the Snow, to make Fire at Night, after having journey'd Ten or Twelve Leagues over-day. Our Shoes were made after the Fashion of those of the Natives, but were not able to keep out the Snow, which melted as soon as our Feet touch'd it, it having

receiv'd heat from the motion of us walking along. We made use of the Barks of Trees to cover us when we went to sleep ; and were carefully sollicitous to keep in great Fires to defend us from the nipping Colds. In this lonesome Condition spent we the Nights, waiting the welcome return of the Sun, that we might go on in our Journey. As for Food, we had none, save the *Indian* Corn grinded small, which we diluted with Water, to make it go down the better.

Thus we pass'd through the Countries of the *Honnehiouts* and *Honnontages*, [6] who gave us a very kind reception, and are the most Warlike People of all the *Iroquese*. When they saw us, they put their Forefingers to their Mouths signifying how much surpris'd they were at the troublesom and difficult Journey we had made in the middle of Winter. Then looking upon the mean and mortifying Habit of St. *Francis*, they cry'd aloud, *Hetchitagon !* that is, Bare-foot ; and did with all manner of passion and astonishment pronounce the Word *Gannoron* ; intimating, that it must needs have been a Busines of great Importance that mov'd us to attempt such a difficult Journey at so unseasonable a time.

These Savages regal'd us with Elk and Venison, dress'd after their own fashion, which we eat of, and afterwards took leave of 'em, going further on in our Journey. When we departed, we carry'd our Bed-cloaths on our Backs, and took with us a little Pot to boyl their Corn in. We pass'd through Ways that were overflown with Water, and such as wou'd have been unpassable by any *European* : For when we came at vast Marshes and overflowing Brooks, we were oblig'd to crawl along by the Trees. At length with much difficulty we arriv'd at *Ganniekez*, or *Agniez*, which is one of the Five Cantons of the *Iroquese*, situated about a large Day's Journey from *New-Holland*, call'd now *New-York* : Being there, we were forc'd to season our *Indian* Corn (which we were wont to bruize betwixt two Stones) with little Frogs that the Natives gather'd in the Meadows towards *Easter*, when the Snow was all gone.

We stay'd some time among these People, lodging with a *Jesuite* that had been born at *Lions*, to transcribe an *Iroquese* Dictionary. [7] When the Weather began to be more favourable, we chanc'd one day to meet with three *Dutch*-men on Horse-back, who had come thither to traffick in Beavers Skins : They were sent thither by Major *Andrews*, who is the Person that subdu'd *Boston* and *New-York* for the King of *England*, and is at present Governour of *Virginia*. [8]

These Gentlemen alighted from their Horses, that we might mount 'em, taking us along with them to *New-Orange* to be regal'd there. As soon as they heard me speak *Dutch*, they testify'd a great deal of Friendship to me, and told me they had read several Histories of the Discoveries made by those of our *Franciscan* Order in the Northern Parts of *America*, but had never before seen any wear the Habit in these Countries as we did. They likewise express'd the great Desire they had to have me stay among them, for the Spiritual Comfort and Advantage of many *Catholicks* who had come from our *Netherlands*, and settled there : And I should very willingly have yielded to their Intreaties in residing there, but that I was afraid of giving any Jealousie to the *Jesuites*, who had receiv'd me very Kindly ; and besides, I was aware of [their] injuring the Colony of *Canada*, in respect to the Commerce they had with the Savages of my Acquaintance in Beavers and Skins. We therefore having testified how much oblig'd we were to the Gentlemen for their Kindness, return'd again to *Catarokouy* with much less difficulty than we went. But all this had no other effect than to augment the Itching I had to discover remoter Countries.

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A Description of Fort Catarokouy, call'd since Fort Frontenac.

THIS Fort is situated a Hundred Leagues from *Quebec* (the Capital City of *Canada*) up the River *St. Laurence* Southwards. It is built near to the Place where the Lake *Ontario* (which is

as much as to say, the pretty Lake [9]) discharges it self. It was surrounded with a Rampart, great Stakes and Palisado's, and four Bastions, by the Order of Count *Frontenac*, Governour-General of *Canada*. They found it necessary to build this Fort for a Bulwark against the Excursions of the *Iroquese*, and to interrupt the Trade of Skins that these Savages maintain with the Inhabitants of *New-York*, and the *Hollanders*, who have settled a new Colony there ; for they furnish the Savages with Commodities at cheaper Rates than the *French* of *Canada*.

The *Iroquese* are an Insolent and barbarous Nation, that has shed the Blood of more than Two millions of Souls in that vast-extended Country. They would never cease from disturbing the Repose of the *Europeans*, were it not for fear of their Fire-Arms : For they entertain no Commerce with them, save in the Merchandise-Goods they stand in need of, and in Arms, which they buy on purpose to use against their Neighbours; and by the means of which, they have compass'd the Destruction of an infinite Number of People, extending their bloody Conquest above 5 or 600 Leagues beyond their own Precincts, and exterminating whatever Nations they hate.

This Fort, which at first was only surrounded with Stakes, Palisado's, and earthen Ramparts, has been enlarg'd since the commencement of my Mission into these Countries, to the circumference of Three hundred and sixty Toises (each of these being six Foot in length [10]) and is now adorn'd with Free-Stone, which they find naturally polish'd by the shock of the Water upon the brink of the Lake *Ontario* or *Frontenac*. They wrought at this Fort with so much diligence and expedition, that in two Years time it was advanc'd to this perfection, by the Care and Conduct of *Sieur-Cavelier de la Sallé*, who was a *Norman* born ; a Man of great Conduct and profound Policy. He oft-times pretended to me, that he was a *Parisian* by Birth, [11] thinking thereby to engage *Father Luke Buisset* before-Mention'd, and me, to put more confidence in him : For he had quickly observ'd from our ordinary Conversation, that the *Flemins*, and several other Nations, are prone to be jealous of the *Normans*. I am sensible that there are Men of Honour and Probity in *Normandy*, as well as elsewhere ; but nevertheless it is certain, that other Nations are generally- more free, and less fly and intriguing, than the Inhabitants of that Province of *France*.

This Fort *Frontenac* lies to the Northward of this Lake, near to its Mouth, where it discharges it self ; and is situated in a *Peninsula*, of which the *Isthmus* is digg'd into a Ditch. On the other side, it has partly the Brink of the Lake surrounding it, partly a pretty sort of a natural Mould, where all manner of Ships may ride safely.

The Situation of this Fort is so advantageous, that they can easily prevent the Sallies and Returns of the *Iroquese* ; and in the space of Twenty four Hours, can wage War with them in the Heart of their own Country. This is easily compass'd by the help of their Barques, of which I saw Three all deck'd and mounted, at my last departure thence. With these Barques, in a very little time, they can convey themselves to the South-side of the Lake, and pillage (if it be needful) the Country of the *Tsonnontouans*, who are the most numerous of all the Provinces of the *Iroquese*. They manure a great deal of Ground for sowing their *Indian* Corn in, of which they reap ordinarily in one Harvest as much as serves 'em for two Years : Then they put It into Caves digg'd in the Earth, and cover'd after such a manner, that no Rain can come at it.

The Ground which lies along the Brink of this Lake is very fertile : In the space of two Years and a half that I resided there in discharge of my *Mission*, they cultivated more than a hundred Acres of it. Both the *Indian* and *European* Corn, Pulse, Pot-Herbs, Gourds, and Water-Melons, throve very well. It is true indeed, that at first the Corn was much spoil'd by Grashoppers ; but this is a thing that happens in all the Parts of *Canada* at the first cultivating the Ground, by reason of the extream Humidity of all that Country. The first Planters we sent thither, bred up Poultry there, and transported with them Horned Beasts, which multiply'd

there extremely. They have stately Trees, fit for building of Houses or Ships. Their Winter is by three Months shorter than at Canada. In fine, we have all the reason to hope, that e're long, a considerable Colony will be settled in that Place. When I undertook my great Voyage, I left there about Fifteen or Sixteen Families together, [12] with Father *Luke Buisset* a *Recollet*, with whom I had us'd to administer the Sacraments in the Chapel of that Fort.

While the Brink of the Lake was frozen, I walk'd upon the Ice to an *Iroquese* Village, call'd *Ganneouse*, near to Kentè, about nine Leagues off the Fort, [13] in company of the *Sieur de la Salle* above-mention'd. These Savages presented us with the Flesh of Elks and Porcupines, which we fed upon. After having discours'd them some time, we return'd, bringing with us a considerable number of the Natives, in order to form a little Village of about Forty Cottages to be inhabited by them, lying betwixt the Fort and our House of Mission. These Barbarians turn'd up the Ground for sowing of *Indian* Corn and Pulse, of which we gave them some for their Gardens. We likewise taught them, contrary to their usual custom of eating, to feed upon Soupe, made with Pulse and Herbs, as we did.

Father *Luke* and I made one Remark upon their Language, that they pronounc'd no Labial Letters, such as B, P, M, F. We had the Apostolick Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and our ordinary Litany, translated into the *Iroquese* Language, which we caus'd them to get by heart, and repeat to their Children ; and forc'd their Children to pronounce as we did, by inculcating to them the Labial Letters, and obliging 'em to frequent converse with the Children of the *Europeans* that inhabited the Fort ; so that they mutually taught one another their Mother-Languages ; which serv'd likewise to entertain a good Correspondence with the *Iroquese*.

These Barbarians stay'd always with us, except when they went a hunting ; which was the thing we were much concern'd about : for when they went for five or six Months ravaging through their vast huge Forests, and sometimes Two hundred Leagues from their ordinary abode, they took their whole Family along with them. And thus they liv'd together, feeding upon the Flesh of the wild Beasts they kill'd with the Fire- Arms they us'd to receive of the *Europeans*, in exchange of their Skins : And it was impossible for any Missionary to follow them into these wild Desarts ; so that their Children being absent all the season of Hunting, forgot what we had instill'd into them at Fort *Frontenac*.

The Inhabitants of *Canada* towards *Quebec*, *Trois Rivieres*, and the Isle of *Mon[t]real*, being sick of their long Winters ; and seeing those of the *Franciscan* Order settle themselves at *Frontenac* where the Winter was three Months shorter, many of 'em resolv'd to transport their Families thither, and reside there. They represented to themselves the Advantage that should accrue to them, by having the Sacraments administred, and their Children educated by us, and that for nothing ; for we ordinarily took no Compensation for the Instruction we gave.

There have always been some sort of People who endeavour'd to render themselves Masters of *Canada*, and become Arbiters and Judges over all the Settlements there ; for the compassing of which Design, they left no means untry'd. They attributed to themselves the Glory of all the Good Success that was had there : They dispers'd their Missionaries over all the Country, and endeavour'd to obstruct all our Designs at Fort *Frontenac*. In fine, they oblig'd our *Recollets* to remove thence by the help of the Marquiss de *Benonville*, the then Governour of *Canada*, whom they had wheedled into their Interests, and who had suffer'd himself to be impos'd upon by the Artifices of these Men. [14]

I hope, that some time or other God will re-establish our poor Monks in that Place ; for their Designs were always innocent and good ; and they could never have been made to retire thence, without doing them Injustice. God leaves nothing unpunish'd : The Day shall come when he shall take Vengeance on those who did this Injury. I heard some time ago, that the *Iroquese*, who wage continual War with the *French* of *Canada*, have seiz'd the Fort of

Catarockouy [15] ; as also that the cruel Savages did smook in their Pipes some of the Fingers of those who had procur'd the departure of our poor *Recollets* from that Fort ; and that the present Inhabitants of *Canada* have upbraided those who were the Authors of that Injustice, with it.

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A Description of some Fresh-water Lakes, the greatest and the pleasantest in the Universe.

I HERE commence the Description of the most remarkable Things in this great Discovery...

The Lake *Ontario* receiv'd the Name of the Lake *Frontenac*, from the Illustrious Count *de Frontenac*, Governour-General of *Canada*. All the World is acquainted with the Merit and Vertue of that Noble Person : It is likewise well known, how ancient that Family is from which he is descended, and what a glorious Train of Illustrious Ancestors went before him, who were always thought worthy of the most weighty Employments both Civil and Military ! His Family was always inviolably firm to the Interests of their Sovereign, even in the most perplex'd Times : Nay, I may say upon this occasion, without giving Offence to the other Governours of *Canada*, that have either preceded, or are to succeed him. That this Country was never govern'd with so much Wisdom, Moderation, and Equity, as by the Count *de Frontenac*.

I know very well, that those Men who aspire to be Masters over all, have endeavour'd to blacken his Reputation, to eclipse his Glory, and render him suspected. But I am bound to say, to the Praise of that Illustrious Nobleman, That for all the Ten Years he liv'd in that Country, he was a Father to the Poor ; a Protector to those that were in danger of being oppress'd ; nay, in short, his Conversation was a perfect Model of Vertue and Piety. Those of his Countrymen who were stirr'd up against him, by an Effedt of their natural Levity and Fickleness, had the Mortification to see him re-eatablith'd in that very same Government, of which their Calumnies and malignant Intrigues had endeavour'd to dispossess him. They had engag'd the Intendant of *Chesneau* in the same Combination, having over-reach'd him by their cunning Artifices. Yet notwithstanding all these unjust Censures, I came to understand of late, that they regret much the want of that Illustrious Count. [16]

It was therefore in Honour of this Worthy Count, that they gave to the Lake the Name of *Frontenac*, in order to perpetuate his Memory in that Country. This Lake is Eighty Leagues long, and Twenty five Leagues broad : It abounds with Fishes, is deep, and navigable all over. The Five Cantons, or Districts, of the *Iroquese*, do inhabit for the most part the South-side of this Lake, *viz.* the *Ganniegez*, or *Agniez* (the nighest Neighbours to *New-Holland*, or *New-York*) the *Onnontagues*, or those who live in the Mountains, who are the most Warlike People of all that Nation ; the *Onneiouts* and *Tsonnontouans* the most populous of them all. There are likewise on the South-side [17] of the Lake, these *Iroquese* Villages, *viz.* *Tejajagon*, *Kentè*, and *Ganneousse*, which is not distant from *Frontenac* above Nine Leagues.

The great River of *St. Laurence* derives its Source from the Lake *Ontario*, which is likewise call'd in the *Iroquese* Language, *Skamadario* ; that is to say, a very pretty Lake. It springs likewise partly from the Lakes that are higher up in the Country, as we shall have occasion to observe afterwards.

This Lake *Ontario* is of an Oval Figure, and extends itself from East to West. Its Water is fresh and sweet, and very pleasant to drink ; the Lands which border upon it being likewise very fertile. It is very navigable, and can receive large Vessels : Only in Winter it is more difficult, because of the outrageous Winds which are frequent there. From this Lake one may

go by Barques, or by greater Vessels to the foot of a great Rock [18] that is about two Leagues off the Fall of the River *Niagara*, which I am now to describe.

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A Description of the Fall of the River Niagara, that is to be seen betwixt the Lake Ontario and that of Erié.

BETWIXT the Lake *Ontario* and *Erié*, there is a vast and prodigious Cadence of Water which falls down after a surprizing and astonishing manner, insomuch that the Universe does not afford its Parallel. 'Tis true, *Italy* and *Suedeland* boast of some such Things ; but we may well say they are but sorry Patterns, when compar'd to this of which we now speak. At the foot of this horrible Precipice, we meet with the River *Niagara* which is not above half a quarter of a League broad, but is wonderfully deep in some places. It is so rapid above this Descent, that it violently hurries down the wild Beasts while endeavouring to pass it to feed on the other side, they not being able to withstand the force of its Current, which inevitably casts them down headlong above Six hundred foot.

This wonderful Downfall is compounded of two great Cross-streams of Water, and two Falls, with an Isle sloping along the middle of it. [19] The Waters which fall from this vast height, do foam and boil after the most hideous manner Imaginable, making an outrageous Noise, more terrible than that of Thunder ; for when the Wind blows from off the South, their dismal roaring may be heard above fifteen Leagues off.

The River *Niagara* having thrown it self down this incredible Precipice, continues its impetuous course for two Leagues together, to the great Rock above-mention'd, with an inexpressible Rapidity : But having pass'd that, its Impetuosity relents, gliding along more gently for two Leagues, till it arrives at the Lake *Ontario* or *Frontenac*.

Any Barque or greater Vessel may pass from the Fort to the foot of this huge Rock above-mention'd. This Rock lies to the Westward, and is cut off from the Land by the River *Niagara*, about two Leagues farther down than the great Fall ; for which two Leagues the People are oblig'd to carry their Goods over-land ; but the way is very good, and the Trees are but few, and they chiefly Firrs and Oaks.

From the great Fall unto this Rock, which is to the West of the River, the two Brinks of it are so prodigious high, that it would make one tremble to look steadily upon the Water, rolling along with a Rapidity not to be imagin'd. Were it not for this vast Cataract :, which interrupts Navigation, they might sail with Barks or greater Vessels, above Four hundred and fifty Leagues further, cross the Lake of Hurons, and up to the farther end of the Lake *Illinois* [Michigan] ; which two Lakes we may well say are little Seas of fresh Water.

Sieur *de la Salle* had a design to have built a Fort at the Mouth of the River *Niagara* ; and might easily have compass'd it, had he known how to have kept himself within bounds, and to be confin'd there for one Year. His design was to curb and keep under the *Iroquese*, and especially the *Tsonnontouans*, who are the most numerous People, and the most given to War of all that Nation. In short, such a Fort as this might easily have interrupted the Commerce betwixt these People and the *English* and *Dutch* in New-York. Their custom is to carry to New-York the Skins of Elks, Beavers, and several sorts of Beasts, which they hunt and seek after some 2 or 300 Leagues from their own home. Now they being oblig'd to pass and repass near to this Mouth of the River *Niagara*, we might easily stop them by fair means in time of Peace, or by open force in time of War ; and thus oblige them to turn their Commerce upon *Canada*.

But having observ'd that the Iroquese were push'd on to stop the Execution of this Design, not so much by the *English* and *Dutch*, as by the Inhabitants of *Canada*, who many of them endeavour'd by all means to traverse this our Discovery ; they contented themselves to build a House at the Mouth of the River to the Eastward, where the Place was naturally fortifi'd. [20] On one side of this House there is a very good Haven, where Ships may safely ride ; nay, by the help of a Capstane, they may easily be hall'd upon Land. Besides, at this Place they take an infinite quantity of Whittings, Sturgeons, and all other forts of Fishes, which are incomparably good and sweet ; insomuch, that in the proper Season of Fishing, they might furnish the greatest City in Europe with plenty of Fish.

[1] The statements of this paragraph are inexact. François de Laval de Montmorency had been bishop of Peträa since 1658, and came to Canada in the following year as vicar apostolic of New France. Not until Oct. 1, 1674, was the see of Quebec erected, Laval being its first bishop, a dignity which he he'd until his resignation in 1685. Returning to Canada three years later, he spent the rest of his life there, dying at Quebec May 6, 1708.

The Fénelon who labored in Canada was not the noted archbishop, but his half-brother, François de Salignac, abbé de Fénelon. This priest, a Sulpitian, was a missionary among the Cayugas at Quinté Bay from 1668 to 1673. In the following year he was sent back to France by Frontenac, having incurred the governor's displeasure.—Ed.

[2] These were snowshoes, called by the Canadians *raquettes*.—Ed.

[3] A small settlement near Quebec, probably at the entrance of Cap Rouge River, where Jacques Cartier wintered in 1541-2, calling his post Charlesbourg-Royal.—Ed.

[4] A reference to Orleans Island.—Ed.

[5] The Iroquois name of the place where Frontenac built, in 1673, the fort long called by his name, on the site of the present city of Kingston, Ont.—Ed.

[6] The tribes included in the Iroquois League (called by themselves “ the Long House” or “ the Five Cabins,” and by English writers usually “ the Five Nations”) were thus located : The westernmost and largest were the Senecas (Tsonnontouans) ; their principal villages were at the present Mendon and Victor, N. Y. Next were the Cayugas (Oiogouins, or Goyogouins), near Savannah and Union Springs. The Onondagas (Onnontaes, Honnontages) were the central and most influential of these tribes, near Manlius and Jamesville. East of them were the Oneidas (Onneiouts, Honnehiouts) , in Madison county. Finally came the Mohawks (called by the French Agniers or Anies) , occupying the lower part of the Mohawk River valley ; these were apparently the fiercest, most implacable, and most treacherous of the five tribes. For more detailed information regarding these peoples, see *Jesuit Relations* (Thwaites's edition—the one cited throughout these notes), viii, pp. 293, 297-301; and li, pp. 293-295 (with map).—Ed.

[7] Apparently a reference to Jacques Bruyas, a missionary among the Iroquois from 1667 until his death in 1712. He was an able linguist, and left a MS. grammar of the Mohawk language, the oldest known to exist. This was published by the regents of the University of New York, in their *Sixteenth Annual Report of State Cabinet* (Albany, 1863), pp. 3-123.—Ed.

[8] Sir Edmund Andros, long the governor of New York colony, and later of Virginia.—Ed.

[9] Many writers say that the word Ontario means “ beautiful lake” ; but Horatio Hale thinks that its original signification was “ great lake” (Iroquois *Book of Rites*, p. 176). — Ed.

[10] The toise is a French linear measure, of six French feet, equivalent to 6.395 English feet.— Ed.

[11] For biography of La Salle, see Parkman's *La Salle* (citations in the present work are made from the edition of 1892) ; Gravier's *Découvertes et établissements de Cavelier de la Salle* (Paris, 1870) ; *Jes. Relations*, Ivii, pp. 315-317, and Ix, 319, 320.—Ed.

[12] These were French colonists, drawn to Fort Frontenac by La Salle, who made them grants of land, and was their feudal seignior.—Ed.

[13] In 1668, Sulpitians from Montreal began a mission at Quinté (Kentè) Bay, on the north side of Lake Ontario, among a colony of Cayugas who had recently settled there. The

Sulpitians were replaced by Recollect missionaries, about 1673.—Ed.

[14] A sarcastic allusion to the Jesuits. Jacques René de Brisay, Marquis de Denonville, was governor of New France from August, 1685 to October, 1689.—Ed.

[15] In 1689 Denonville, feeling unable to maintain Fort Frontenac, ordered its abandonment ; it was soon after seized by the Iroquois, who found therein large quantities of stores and ammunition. Orders were given by Louis XIV, in the following year, that the walls of the fort be razed ; but it was restored by Frontenac in 1695. See *Jes. Relations*, Ixiv, pp. 97, 276. — Ed.

[16] Louis de Buade, count de Frontenac, was probably the ablest and most distinguished, except Champlain, among the governors of New France. Appointed in 1672, he governed the colony with great ability, and kept the Iroquois tribes in awe ; but his fiery temper and headstrong will so involved him in quarrels with both civil and ecclesiastical authorities, and with the fur-traders, that Louis XIV, losing patience, recalled him in 1682. The inefficiency of his successors made it necessary to send him back to Canada (1689), which he saved from what seemed imminent destruction. In 1696, he led in person an expedition into the Iroquois country, effectually breaking the power of that ferocious people. Frontenac died on Nov. 28, 1698, regretted by the people. Although hostile to the Jesuits, and little inclined toward the diocesan authorities at Quebec, he had always favored and aided the Recollets ; hence Hennepin's somewhat extravagant laudation.

Jacques Duchesneau was intendant of Canada from 1675 to 1682. — Ed.

[17] Evidently an oversight of Hennepin's English translator, for these Cayuga villages were all on the north side of Lake Ontario.—Ed.

[18] O. H. Marshall says (*Buffalo Historical Society Publications*, i, pp. 265, 266): “ This ‘ great rock ’ can still be seen under the western end of the old Suspension bridge, the ruins of which now span the river at that point . . . and perpetuates his memory under the name of ‘ Hennepin's Rock. ’ ” — Ed.

[19] Goat Island, with the so-called “ Horseshoe ” and “ American ” falls. — Ed.

[20] La Salle built (1679) a blockhouse on the point of land at the eastern angle between Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. Various fortifications have since occupied this site, at present that of Fort Niagara.—Ed.

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