

1646. which there are several salt-springs, with the edges always covered with very fine salt. Two leagues further towards the canton of Cayuga is a spring of milk-white water, of very sharp odor, and resolving itself, when set on fire, into a kind of salt as acrid as caustic.¹ This whole canton is charming, and the soil adapted to every crop. That of Oneida lies between Mohawk and Onondaga, and is in no respect inferior to either; but the canton of Cayuga surpasses all in excellence of soil and mildness of climate. The inhabitants even show some slight effect, and have always seemed the most tractable of all the Iroquois. In the extensive tract of country occupied by the Senecas there are charming spots, and, generally speaking, the soil is good. Earth is said to have been discovered which, when well washed, yields a very pure sulphur; and in the same place is a spring, the water of which, well boiled, turns into sulphur. It is added that this water takes fire spontaneously when violently agitated.² Further on, approaching the country of the ancient Erietz, there is a thick, oily, stagnant water, which takes fire like brandy.³

The characteristics of each canton.

The bay of the Cayugas and that of the Senecas, and the great marsh in the latter canton, I have spoken of elsewhere as places that appeared to me delicious. I may add, that coasting along the whole country from the Onondaga to the Niagara rivers, I saw nothing but fertile, well-wooded and well-watered lands, if you except some sandy beaches which do not run inland; but it may be that parts where I did not land are not equally so.⁴

Throughout the territory of the five cantons⁵ all our

¹ Rel., 1657, p. 33. Probably a spring near Camillus. The color is from sulphur in a state of suspension.

² There is one quite like it six leagues from Grenoble.—*Charlevoix*. These sulphur-springs are probably those on Oak Orchard Creek.

³ These are apparently the Chautauque gas-springs, near Fredonia and Portland: N. Y. Nat. Hist. Geol.

ogy, iv. Dist., p. 309. See Sagard, *Histoire du Canada*, p. 889; also *Charlevoix, Journal*, p. 224.

⁴ *Journal*, pp. 214, 224. The Bay of the Cayugas may be Port Bay.

⁵ The French names of the Five Nations are, Agniégué, Onneiout, Onnontagué (pronounced Onontaké), Goyogouin (Oyogouin), and Tsonnon-touan.—*Charlevoix*.