

four days' journey to the entrance of the so celebrated River of that Nation, into the Ontario or lake of St. Louys. On this side of that River,—and not beyond it, as a certain Chart indicates,—are the greater part of the villages of the Neutral Nation. There are three or four beyond, ranging from East to West, towards the Nation of the Cat, or Eriechronons.

This Stream or River is that through which our great lake of the Hurons, or fresh-water Sea, empties; it flows first into the lake of Erié, or of the Nation of the Cat,¹¹ and at the end of that lake, it [50] enters into the territory of the Neutral Nation, and takes the name of Onguiaahra,¹² until it empties into the Ontario or lake of saint Louys, whence finally emerges the river that passes before Quebec, called the St. Lawrence. So that, if once we were masters of the coast of the sea nearest to the dwelling of the Iroquois, we could ascend by the river saint Lawrence without danger, as far as the Neutral Nation, and far beyond, with considerable saving of time and trouble.

According to the reckoning of the Fathers who have been there, there are at least twelve thousand souls in the whole extent of the country, which relies upon being still able to furnish four thousand warriors, notwithstanding the wars, famine, and sickness which for 3 years have been unusually prevalent there.

After all, I believe that those who formerly ascribed such an extent to this Nation, and assigned to it so many tribes, understood by the term "Neutral Nation," all the other Nations which are South and Southwest of our Hurons,—which indeed are very numerous, but which in the beginning [51] having been only confusedly known, were comprised