

face the Neutral Nation whose villages on the nearest frontier are only about thirty leagues distant from the Hurons. Its extent is forty or fifty leagues.

Beyond the Neutral Nation, a little toward the East, we go to New Sweden where the Andastoëronons dwell, who are the allies of our Hurons, and who speak a similar language; they are one hundred and fifty leagues distant from us, in a straight line. We shall speak of them in the eighth Chapter.

Almost due South from the country of the same Neutral Nation, we find a great Lake nearly two hundred leagues in circumference, called Erié; it is formed by the discharge [7] of the fresh-water Sea and throws itself over a waterfall of a dreadful height¹ into a third Lake, named Ontario, which we call Lake Saint Louys, and of which we shall speak farther on.

This Lake, called Erié, was formerly inhabited on its Southern shores by certain tribes whom we call the Nation of the Cat; they have been compelled to retire far inland to escape their enemies, who are farther to the West. These people of the Cat Nation have a number of stationary villages, for they till the soil, and speak the same language as our Hurons.²

Leaving the Huron country, and proceeding toward the South, after a journey of thirty or forty leagues we come to Lake St. Louys which is eighty or ninety leagues in length, while its average width is fifteen or twenty leagues. Its length is from the East to the West; its width from the South to the North.

The discharge of this Lake Saint Louys forms a branch of the River Saint Lawrence,—namely, that which is South of the Island of Mont-Real, and runs past Quebec.