

possible, by a natural depression in the soil, similar to a moat; and permitting the construction of a circular barrier, with the village in one compact mass within,—leaving, however, a wide empty space between the dwellings and the walls, the better to do battle, and to defend themselves against an enemy who might attack them; while they could, as opportunity offered, make sorties." The description of Ossossané given by Father Charles Garnier, though not as complete, tallies with the above.

In this connection, it should be borne in mind that ossuaries are not indications of village sites, although they were never far removed from the Indian towns. As numerous clans, and even tribes, united in celebrating the "Feast of the Dead" at stated intervals, the place of final sepulture was so chosen as to be within easy distance of the most remote villages taking part in the burial ceremonies. A profusion of hatchets or arrow-heads, moreover, is not always a certain indication of a village site. They may mark the place where a hostile encounter occurred; but these, as the *Relations* inform us, often took place at considerable distances from towns or villages. Another element of uncertainty in the identification of sites is found in the supposed frequency of change in location of a village, as the wood in its vicinity became scarce,—although I think that the importance of this consideration has been overestimated. It should not be too strenuously urged, especially with reference to the principal fortified centers in the Huron country. "La Pointe," as the missionaries often called the peninsula lying west and north of Penetanguishene Bay, was thickly strewn with village sites; and even the region south and east of this, between the Coldwater and Nottawasaga Rivers, was so studded with Indian settlements as to preclude the removal of any considerable village far from its original site. However, some changes of locality are known to have occurred; in some of these cases, new names were given to the villages. The *Relations* mention many new places, which seem to have been unknown to Champlain and Sagard; while some names appear on Du Creux's map which are not to be found elsewhere.

In locating sites upon the accompanying map, I have, while keeping in mind the above-named considerations, followed, as closely and conscientiously as possible, the statements made in the *Relations* and other old records; and I have endeavored to use the little definite knowledge on this subject which we possess, as stepping-stones to what is unknown or uncertain. But I cannot claim absolute certainty for these conclusions, which, as I feel, can be little more than an approximation to the truth; which, also, will doubtless be in some cases modified by the discoveries made in local research. I trust, however, that this contribution to Huronian