

293 University St
Montreal.

October 17/98.

Dear Mr. Lighthall,

I have had a copy made of the notes prepared for a ^{new} ~~second~~ edition of my "Israel Men," and shall be glad to show them to you if you will kindly call to see me as soon as convenient. I shall also be happy to learn from you anything respecting the ancient interments, you mention as found at Westmount, and what evidence there is that they belonged to the Hochelagans people rather

than to other tribes,
visiting the St Lawrence
Valley in early times.

You will find in
"Fossil Men", and in my
papers on the site of Hochelago
in the "Canadian Naturalist",
that I have referred to
perforated discs of baked
clay, and of shell of the
marl or fresh-water mussel,
which seemed to have
served for wampum at
Hochelago.

Sincerely yours,

J. M. Dawson

(Dictated)

Note for Mr. Lighthall

by Sir J. Wm Dawson

discussing the Hochelagons.

The racial affinities of the Hochelagons in so far as Cartier is concerned can be settled only by what he says of their habitations and customs, and a few words of their language. So far as these go, they indicate affinities with that Huron-Iroquois race which occupies so large a place in the early history of Canada, yet they were neither Hurons nor Iroquois, and their geographical habitat was special, and apparently consisted of a strip of country along the river St. Lawrence, east of the great lakes. With the Iroquois on the south of that river, they were at enmity, as they seem also to have been with the Algonquin tribes to the north, nor is there any evidence in the earlier notices of them that they had any close relations with the Huron Nation near Lake Ontario. The French called them Iroquet a name expressing at once resemblance to, and difference from the Iroquois, and their own tribal name seems to have been Onontcharonons.

We are indebted to the Late Dr. H. H. Hale, J. R. S. C. * for some interesting information as to their history after the destruction of Hochelago, which though perhaps not absolutely certain, has about it an air of probability. It would seem that traditions survive, or until very recently survived among the Wyandots, Wandats, or Lionontates, a remnant of the Huron race, now settled partly on the Anderdon reserve in Ontario, and partly in the United States, that their ancestors (ancestors) dwelt on the Lower St. Lawrence, and had from fear of the Iroquois removed westward, where they constituted a leading section of the great Huron nation, once so powerful and populous, but finally destroyed by the Iroquois. They were sometimes called the tobacco nation, owing to their skill in the culture of this plant. Parkman says of them - the Wyandots of Sandusky and Detroit far surpassed the surrounding tribes in energy of character and social progress. ~~Shin~~ Log

* Journal of American Folklore, 1894

Dwellings were strong and commodious,
 their agriculture was very considerable.
 Their name stood high in war and
 policy, and they were regarded with
 deference by all the adjacent Indians.
 Hall adds that they possessed a certain
 seniority over the Hurons, and that their
 principal chief was regarded as the head
 of the Huron people. *

If the tradition can be relied on the
 story of the old Hochelagans of Cartier
 would be that they were an ancient and
 leading branch of the Huron-Iroquois stock,
 which had established itself in very early
 times, along the north shore of the Lower
 St. Lawrence, from Quebec to Montreal,
 and maintained an independent sovereignty
 in presence of the Algonquin tribes on the
 north and east, and of the growing power
 of the Iroquois league to the south and
 west. At the time of Cartier's visit, this
 nation was perhaps approaching its down-
 fall. Weakened, it may be, with con-

* Conspiracy of Pontiac Page 151.

Shets with the Algonquians, it became too feeble to maintain its independence, and removed to the West to ally itself with the cognate tribes on the shores of Lake Ontario and Lake Huron, hence it was that within a century after the visit of Cartier, these people had disappeared from their ancient abodes. Champlain seems, however, to have found them on the upper lakes, and to have joined with them in a hostile expedition against the Iroquois.