

POEM
By David Plain
Aamjiwnaang First Nation

The complete meaning of the Ojibwe word Aamjiwnaang is a descriptive noun for the outlet of Lake Huron where it perpetually empties itself into The St. Clair River and its environs. The imagery in the poem represents Aamjiwnaang at the time of Confederation in 1867.

Tumbling waters tumbling by
Past boulders, and rock bod two visions vie
Thunderous falls versus mist clouds on high
Jointly both beckon to gathering nigh

Into narrow strait swift currents weaves braid
Then flowing upstream beneath placid shade
In midst river yet deep deluge's not staid
Bright dancing sunbeams reveal spirits rayed

Now downstream widens it's turbulence past
Deep waters belie an irenic cast
Yet peaceful shallows raise tall reeds at last
Abode of both fish and water fowl vast
Shore boasts of maple, oak, elm all grassed
Shading wild fruit trees abundantly massed