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BRISTOL is a place of considerable importance, on the right bank of the Saint John river, and about twenty-seven miles above the town of Woodstock. Its first settlement is of rather early date in the history of Carleton county; it is, we believe, close upon a hundred years since the first settlers commenced to clear the forest, which then extended down to the water's edge. These early settlers were no doubt attracted to the banks of this magnificent stream, by the rich virgin soil, as evidenced by the superb growth of the forest trees, and, by the fact that the land rises in a series of plateaus on each side of the river, the banks of which are steep, and in some places quite lofty, this was probably considered an advantage, as precluding the chances of their crops, and flocks and herds being swept away by some disastrous freshet.

The major portion of the inhabitants of this, and the surrounding districts, are the direct descendants of these early settlers, amongst which we may mention the families of the Rogers's, Kinney's, Dyer's, Giberson's and Bell's. There is amongst the present generation, many who well remember the trials and hardships of these early pioneers; many who

the herculean labours lent a hand in their endeavours to carve out homes for themselves and families, in the dense forest that covered the whole face of the country; these toils and hardships were however, sweetened by the knowledge that the labours, the struggles, with all the discomforts and privations, incidental to such pioneer life; were for their own benefit, and that every acre, cleared of its forest growth, added so much to their own comfort, wealth and independence.

Many years ago, a great impetus was given to the growth of settlements on both sides of the St. John river, by the building of the New Brunswick Railway, this great incentive to settlement has been productive of immense benefit to the section of country through which it passes, and as a consequence, settlements have been formed in parts remote from the line of railway; and, those settlers who reside twenty miles, and even more back from the railway, especially in the eastern part of the county, are dependent for very many of the comforts and necessaries of life, on the accommodation afforded by the railway.

The railway station at Bristol adds to

its importance very materially, as it has thence become a port of entry and departure for a very extensive tract of thickly settled farming land, on both sides of the river. A few years ago the station at Bristol was known as Kent, that being the name of the parish in which Bristol is situate, and of which it is, by far, the most populous, and the most important centre. On the New Brunswick Railway being taken over, to form a part of the gigantic Canadian Pacific Railway Company's system, the name was changed to Bristol as being more appropriate, and, also to distinguish it from another Kent in the northern part of the province.

Within the past few years Bristol has undergone one of those metamorphoses so frequent in colonial towns, the old and time-worn buildings have disappeared, and, in their stead, have arisen fine, handsome residences, with architectural pretensions of no common order, new and pretty houses with tasty flower-beds and other evidences of refinement, have usurped the place of dilapidated buildings,—though there are a few wrecks of the by-gone past, left yet.—Handsome, and well filled stores adorn the village streets, and a fine commodious Hotel, in the centre of the little town, adds very

much to its picturesque appearance, and signs of prosperity, and business enterprise abound on every side.

Amongst the business enterprises now carried on in the place are two working factories, one of these operated by Giberson Brothers, is run by water-power, and is on the Little Shikitehauk stream, a short distance above the extensive milling establishment of Mr. George Brittain, where they do some excellent work. The other one is owned by Messrs. Brittain and Barter, it is built on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire and will be in full working order in the course of a few days. Near the junction of the Shikitehauk with the St. John river, there are two large mills, one a saw and grist mill, the other an extensive sawing and planing mill, newly built and equipped, by Mr. C. A. Phillips, to replace a former one that was burnt down some few years ago. Blacksmith's shops, The Harness making establishments, Wheelwright's and Carpenter's shops, and the shop of the Village Tonsorial Artist, all combine to give an air of importance to the place that is frequently wanting in towns of far greater pretensions.

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