

SOME INCIDENTS

AT THE MEDUCTIC FORT AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD.

Escape From Drowning—Sturgeon Fishing.
The Mohawk Scare.—The Common Animals Described by Gyles.

(No. 10.)

The space at our disposal in these articles will permit the mention of only a few of the many entertaining incidents related by John Gyles in his narrative, some of which throw considerable light on the habits and customs of the Indians.

"Once," says Gyles, "as we were fishing for salmon at a fall of about fifteen feet of water, I came near being drowned in a deep hole at the foot of the fall. The Indians went into the water to wash themselves and asked me to go in with them, I told them I could not swim, but they insisted and so I went in. They ordered me to dive across the deepest place and if I fell short of the other side they would help me. But instead of diving across the narrowest part I was crawling on the bottom into the deepest part. They not seeing me rise and knowing whereabouts I was by the bubbling of the water, a young girl dived down and brought me up by the hair otherwise I had perished in the water."

This was not his only escape from drowning for he says again: "I was once fishing with an Indian for sturgeon, and the Indian darting one, his feet slipped, and he turned the canoe bottom upward with me under it. I held fast to the crossbar with my face to the bottom of the canoe, but turning myself I brought my breast to bear upon the crossbar, expecting every minute the Indian to tow me to the bank, but he had 'other fish to try.' Thus I continued a quarter of an hour, without want of breath, till the current drove me on a rocky point where I could reach bottom. There I stopped and turned up my canoe. On looking about for the Indian I saw him half a mile off up the river. On going to him I asked him why he had not towed me to the bank seeing he knew I could not swim. He said he knew I was under the canoe for there were no bubbles anywhere to be seen, and that he saw I should drive on the point; so while he was taking care of his fine sturgeon which was eight or ten feet in length I was left to sink or swim."

The life of the white captives at the Meductic village appears to have been largely a round of never ending drudgery which made it quite a relief in some ways when the Indians went on the route. On one occasion James Alexander obtained a respite from this drudgery by taking advantage of the terror with which the Indians regarded the Mohawks. Here again we shall let Gyles tell the story in his own words. "One very hot season a great number of Indians gathered together at the Meductic village and being a very droughty (thirsty) people, they kept James and myself night and day fetching water from a cold spring that ran out of a rocky hill about three quarters of a mile from the fort. In going thither we crossed a large interval cornfield and then a descent to a lower interval before we ascended the hill to the spring. James being almost dead as well as I, with this continual fatigue contrived a plan to frighten the Indians. He told me of his plan but conjured me to secrecy. The next dark night going for water, James set his kettle down on the descent to the lowest interval, and running back to the fort puffing and blowing as though in the utmost surprise told his master that he saw something near the spring that looked like Mohawks (which were only stumps). His master being a most courageous warrior went with him to make discovery. When they came to the brow of the hill James pointed to the stumps, withal touching his kettle with his toe giving it a motion down the hill. At every turn its bail clattered which caused James and his master to see a Mohawk in every stump and they lost no time in 'turning tail to' and he was the best man who could run the fastest. This alarmed all the Indians in the village and they packed off bag and baggage, some up the river and others down and did not return under fifteen days; and then the heat of summer being finally over, our hard service was abated for that season. I never heard that the Indians understood the occasion of their fright but James and I had many a private laugh about it."

In his narrative Gyles devotes a chapter to "a description of several creatures commonly taken by the Indians on St. John's River." He describes very fully the beaver and its habits. He also gives a full description of the wolverene, or Indian devil, which seems to have been an object of special abhorrence to the Indians. "I was once," he says, "travelling a little way behind several Indians, and, hearing them laugh merrily, when I came up, I asked them the cause of their laughter. They showed me the track of a moose, and how a wolverene had climbed a tree, and how he had jumped off upon the moose. It so happened that after the moose had taken several large leaps it came under the branch of a tree which, striking the wolverene broke his hold and tore him off; and

by his tracks in the snow it appeared he went off another way with short steps as if he had been stunned by the blow that had broken his hold. The Indians imputed the accident to the cunning of the moose, and were wonderfully pleased that it had thus outwitted the mischievous wolverene. . . . An Indian told me that having left his wigwam with sundry things on the scaffold, among which was a birchen flask containing several pounds of powder, he found at his return, much to his surprise and grief, that a wolverene had visited it, mounted the scaffold and hove down bag and baggage. The powder flask happening to fall into the fire, exploded, blowing up the wolverene and scattering the wigwam in all directions. At length he found the creature, blind from the blast, wandering backward and forward and he had the satisfaction of kicking and beating him about."

Gyles gives a very good description of the porcupine, also of the turtle or tortoise. The latter creature seems to have then been quite common along the intervals and to have been highly prized by the Indians. "They lay their eggs," says Gyles, "in the sand near some deep still water about a foot beneath the surface of the sand, they cover them so that there is not the least rising of the sand upon the beach where they are deposited. I have often searched for them with the Indians by thrusting a stick into the sand at random and brought up some part of the egg clinging to it; when uncovering the place, we have found near one hundred and fifty in one nest. Both their eggs and their flesh are good eating when boiled. I have observed a difference as to the length of time in which they are hatching, which is between 20 and 30 days. As soon as they are hatched the young tortoises break through the sand and betake themselves to the water, and, as far as I could discern, without any further care or help from the old ones."

Our next article will be devoted to the consideration of some of the curious customs that prevailed amongst the Indians on the river two centuries ago.

W. O. RAYMOND.

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"I shall always consider it a pleasure and duty to strongly recommend Paine's Celery Compound to all who are afflicted with rheumatism."

The London Election.

The election which took place in London, Ontario, last week, to fill a vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Meredith, late leader of the opposition resulted in the election of Mr. Hobbs, the Liberal candidate. The majority is surprisingly large—over eight hundred.

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St. Martins Seminary.

The institution located at St. Martins in one of the most picturesque spots on our southern coast, has this year been thoroughly renovated and equipped with an efficient staff of instructors in all the branches of a liberal education. The board has been at great expense in repairing and furnishing the building and furnaces, which are in excellent condition, and they have also taken the utmost pains to supply every facility for the advancement of higher learning to the youth of the land.

A staff, numbering eight in all, representing several of our most noted institutions, both in Canada and New England, has been engaged, and is now giving instruction in the various courses laid down. These courses aim to fit students for a classical training, for commercial pursuits, and also for a finished musical education. Besides, there are several young men who have the Christian ministry in view and whose influence is most salutary upon the moral tone of the school. These receive special instruction in Bible study and general theological subjects, courses which are open to all the students.

The institution has two distinct departments, one for the young men and the other for young women. They are each presided over by special instructors, the vice-principal having charge of the young men's department, and the preceptress that of the young ladies.

About one hundred students have annually attended the seminary and profited by its advantages, as an educational factor in this province. St. Martins has already received cordial and deserved acknowledgement and the influence of its students must leave a decided impress upon the literary and social life of the country.

The tone of the school has been of a high moral and Christian character. It aims to elevate the normal standard in the mind of every student. This factor in modern education is more and more beginning to attract the attention not only of interested parents but the public at large. A father wishes to know when his boy is sent away to school beyond his care that the moral training of his son is as carefully attended to as the direct education itself. Christian education is today justly receiving the commendation of the most prominent men in public life, and it is no doubt destined to work an important change in the general welfare of our people.

Every teacher on the staff at St. Martins is a pronounced and active Christian, and aims to enlist the sympathies of the student in the noblest Christian work. This influence cannot be otherwise than beneficial in the highest degree.

The board has recently engaged as preceptress Miss E. M. Ketcher, an M. A. of Colby University, and an experienced teacher in several prominent schools in New England. For the last three years Miss Ketcher has taught in the Institute founded by D. L. Moody at Mt. Hermon, Mass. just four miles from the Northfield school, and on the opposite bank of the Connecticut. She now has charge of the classes at St. Martins, in Latin, Greek and French and already has succeeded in arousing much enthusiasm in her work.

The courses in Mathematics and Science are conducted by Mr. Shirley J. Case, B. A. of Acadia University. Miss Lizzie B. Hughes, well known in Carleton county, has English Literature, Rhetoric and German, while Miss Lizzie L. Bridges, gives instruction in Typewriting and Shorthand.

Miss Annie Vaughan, a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music gives Piano-forte Instruction, teaching also the modern German method, instituted at St. Martins last year by the distinguished Fraulein Meyer. Miss Marion Vaughan has Drawing and Painting, while the Preparatory Department is under Mr. Folkins.

The next term of the institute is announced to open Wednesday, January 9th. Rev. W. E. McIntyre, B. A. is the principal.

A Natural Product of P. E. Island.

The steamer Florida took away today upwards of \$70,000 worth of cheese. It would take a good many potatoes at twenty cents to make up this amount. There would be many schooners employed and a great stir made in the operation. A great deal of value would also have been taken out of the soil, of which no account could be taken. But this amount was probably covered by one cheque; the cheese was shipped as part of the cargo of one steamer; there was no fuss or stir about the operation; and comparatively little fertility was taken away from the soil. There is, it will be admitted, a great difference between the business of the past and the business of the present. Our dairies alone will this year bring in close upon, if not quite, \$100,000. The whole of this will not go directly into the pockets of the farmers, for a certain proportion will be required to meet the running expenses, but the whole of it will go into circulation here, and by so much relieve the tightness of the times.—Charlotte-town Examiner.

A drum of wood, with one drumstick, was not long ago found in a Royal tomb near Thebes.

Scores of amulets, evidently worn to keep off evil spirits, have been found in the ruins of Nineveh.

RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

DEPARTURES.

6.15 A. M.—MIXED—Week days: For Presque Isle and points North.
11.32 A. M.—EXPRESS—Week days: For Houlton, McAdam Junction, St. Stephen, Fredericton, St. John, Vanceboro, Bangor, Boston, &c.
12.30 P. M.—MIXED—Week days: For Fredericton, &c., via Gibson Branch.
1.05 P. M.—EXPRESS—Week days: For Presque Isle, Edmundston, and all points North.
2.40 P. M.—MIXED—Week days: For Vanceboro, Montreal, etc.
8.00 P. M.—MIXED—Week days: For Houlton, McAdam Junction, St. Stephen, St. John, Bangor, Boston, &c.

ARRIVALS.

6.15 A. M.—MIXED—Except Monday, from St. John, St. Stephen, Vanceboro, Bangor, etc.
10.56 A. M.—MIXED—Week days: From Fredericton, etc., via Gibson Branch.
11.00 A. M.—From McAdam Junction, etc.
11.32 A. M.—EXPRESS—Week days: From Presque Isle, etc.
1.05 P. M.—EXPRESS—Week days: From St. John, St. Stephen, Bangor, Montreal, etc.
7.45 P. M.—MIXED—Week days: From Edmundston, Presque Isle, etc.

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