

THE MEDUXNAKIC.

(No. 3.)

In the early days of New Brunswick our rulers were keenly alive to the necessity of maintaining communication by land between the Canadas upper and lower and the maritime provinces. Accordingly the construction of a road from Fredericton towards the Canada line was among the first things to engage the attention of the provincial legislature. As early at least as the year 1792 the house of assembly made a grant "towards opening the road from Fredericton to the river Meductinick." Captain Dugald Campbell, a retired officer of the 42nd Highlanders, "the Old Black Watch," was the chief engineer in laying out the road. As at first laid out it crossed the St. John river about sixteen miles above Fredericton at Burgoyne's ferry continuing thence along the east side of the river to "Wolverton's" about five miles below the town of Woodstock, where it again crossed by ferry to the west side. At the session of the legislature in 1816 the council strongly recommended the house of assembly to abandon the ferry at Wolverton's and to continue the road along the east side of the river some miles further, crossing to the west bank at R. Phillips', about three miles above the Meduxnakic. The main argument employed by the council in favor of their proposal was "the great inconvenience and difficulty of crossing the Meductinick in the spring and after heavy rains when it becomes very rapid." The house of assembly however, declined to concur in the recommendation of the council which would practically have given Woodstock the "go by" as far as the great road to Canada was concerned.

The earliest supervisors of the road to Canada were Messrs. Daniel Morehouse, Thomas C. Lee, and George D. Berton. The breaking out of war between England and France in 1792, which continued with little intermission for the next twenty-five years, together with the war with the United States in 1812, diverted the attention of the legislature from the work of opening up the country by the construction of roads and bridges. But after the establishment of peace work on the roads was renewed more vigorously than before.

In the year 1816 the supervisors just named expended about \$12,000 upon the road "leading from Fredericton towards the Canada line." They submitted at the next session of the legislature a lengthy and particular report of the progress made and the difficulties encountered. In the course of their report they state that the building of a bridge over the large stream "Maduxwawick" would be attended with great expense, and they accordingly proposed the construction of a floating bridge at that point. This suggestion, however, did not commend itself to the government or to the people of the vicinity, and nothing was done. Daniel Morehouse in his report for the next year merely makes a passing reference to the "Meductinick" across which stream "no bridge is yet erected."

The inconvenience arising from the want of a bridge at this point began to be most seriously felt. The settlers at Upper Woodstock and in the newly formed military settlements above the Presqu'isle began to complain of the annoyance caused by the difficulty of crossing the Meduxnakic when the water was high and an agitation looking to the speedy construction of a bridge was begun. The first tangible result of this was seen on the 7th March, 1820, when Peter Fraser, Esq., (uncle of the present Lieutenant Governor, and one of the York county members) presented to the house of assembly the petition of sundry inhabitants of the parishes of Woodstock and Wakefield "praying aid to enable them to erect a bridge across a stream called Madishnakick." The house of assembly, however, did not respond to the appeal and three more years passed without anything being attempted.

The roads on either side of the creek were now rapidly improving. Sleighs had long been in use in the winter time and carts and waggons were being introduced. Old Parson Dibblee's congregation at the Parish Church included many who were obliged to ford the creek or come to church in canoes. The only resident physician, Dr. Rice, also lived below the creek. The construction of the bridge was rapidly becoming a question of necessity rather than of convenience. The people therefore determined to put their shoulders to the wheel. As a consequence Mr. Slason, on Feb. 24, 1823, presented the petition of the inhabitants of Woodstock accompanied by a subscription of £140, desiring legislative aid to enable them to "erect a bridge across the Maduxnekeek river." But the provincial treasury was depleted and it was not till two years later that the assembly encouraged the project by a grant of £100. Meanwhile the people themselves had made a beginning. Rev. Mr. Dibblee in his diary under date Nov. 12, 1824, refers to the progress that was being made with the work at the bridge, upon which some of the Irish emigrants were employed. Some difficulty evidently was experienced in building the bridge since its construction occupied more than two years. When completed it was a rough structure but it served its purpose for many years. The piers were built of round hemlock logs and were three in number, one at each side

and one in the centre of the stream. The site was almost identical with that of the present bridge.

The names of the two gentlemen to whom the people of Woodstock were indebted for their first bridge have been preserved in the following entry in the journals of the house of assembly: "Feb. 16, 1827: Mr. Salson presented a petition from Richard Ketchum and Thomas Phillips of Woodstock in the county of York, praying that the sum of £100 granted in the year 1825 for finishing and securing the Maduxnekeek bridge be appropriated to them, they having completed the said bridge." The grant was made accordingly.

The old hemlock bridge has been succeeded by five others built from time to time, the best of which by all odds is the neat iron structure which now spans the stream. Before the existence of a bridge the usual fording place was near the mouth of the stream, but at high water this was necessarily abandoned and the best crossing place was then near Elisha Baker's, further up the stream.

The Meduxnakic has always afforded a capital site for mills at its mouth, and as its banks were clothed with excellent pine and spruce it has almost from the first received attention at the hands of enterprising citizens.

Captain Jacob Smith, about the year 1822, built a saw and grist mill near his residence on the south side of the creek. The property was afterwards purchased by Robert and Hugh Davis. A little later an American named Dickey built an old fashioned mill on the opposite side of the stream. The mill was afterwards bought and remodelled by John and Walter Bedell.

Few if any mill privileges in the province have been so continuously and so extensively operated as those at the mouth of the Meduxnakic.

W. O. RAYMOND.

Native East Indians in English Politics.

A London dispatch says:—The East Indians, who, whether in their own countries or in England, are hopeful of securing large political and judicial reforms for their race, are of the opinion that it is wise not to have all their eggs in one party basket. One of them sits as a Liberal for a London constituency. Naoroji was a Parsee priest before he went into trade. He is a well-educated man, and would adorn any Legislative Assembly. Naturally, he cast his lot with the Home Rulers, and he has been as often styled the friend of Ireland in British periodicals as Davitt the friend of India in the same papers, and especially in the periodical India, devoted wholly to that country, and published in London. Another East Indian is about to seek a constituency as a Unionist. It is not easy to see how the rustic electors are going to pronounce his name, for it is spelled Manchergie Merwanjee Bhowmuggree. This gentleman, also a well-educated and accomplished man, was commissioner from his native Hrovince of Bhowmuggree at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, and was in England again last year with Maharajah. It is thought that with a representative of talent and independent means in each of the National parties attention can be better secured for Indian ameliorations than if all that race should cast lot with a single party. While these two will divide with their respective parties on all but Indian questions, they will constitute the nucleus of an East Indian Committee on bills touching that country. The present member is popular with the House, and has never ceased to be a picturesque novelty in the lobbies.

Man and Woman.

Scientific observations are not yet carried far enough to determine all the essential differences, but they are sufficient to overthrow Mr. Herbert Spencer's inferences that woman is "undeveloped man," and any one else's inference that man is undeveloped woman. But while the science is in the present state, the acknowledged differences of the sex will be seized upon by one side as an argument for woman suffrage, and by the other as a reason against it. Take, for instance, metabolism. The difference in the quality of the blood of men and women is fundamental and of vast importance. Men have more red corpuscles in their blood than women. The functional power of the blood is, however, measured by the amount of haemoglobin, and women average eight per cent. less haemoglobin than men. The specific gravity of the blood is higher in men than in women. Nor are these mortifying facts offset by the discovery that the plasma in women has a somewhat higher specific gravity than in men. There is a compensation in the observation that in old women the specific gravity rises, and this rise may be a factor in the greater longevity of women, a direct bearing upon the result that once a voter she would be longer a voter. It is admitted that women are more precocious than men, and that their development is earlier arrested.

Continuing the same subject, we find that the heart of the male animal beats more slowly than that of the female, depending greatly upon the animal's size. The pulse rate of the elephant is 28; of the horse, 42; of the dog, 75; of the mouse, 120. Women

have a more rapid pulse beat than men; after the age of seven their beats average about ten in the minute more than men. This approach of the pulse rate of the woman to the mouse has no scientific connection with the fear of woman for that harmless animal—a subject which has not received the attention it deserves. Like the matter of respiration, it may have something to do with clothing. The "vital capacity," as the breathing power is called, is decidedly less in women than in men. Man's respiration is diaphragmatic; woman's is costal. Men produce more carbonic acid than women, and one result of this difference is that women have a less keen need of air; they have a better chance of surviving exposure to charcoal fumes. From this we might jump to the conclusion that women are better adapted to bear the air of a political caucus. But this would be a hasty generalization on an insufficient basis, for we do not yet know what the normal woman is. Recent investigations of civilized women and uncivilized—that is, to put it roughly, those who wear and who do not wear corsets—is leading to a revision in regard to the difference of sexual breathing in normal conditions. The evidence goes to show that the sexual differences in respiration are not natural, but are the results of the artificial restrictions of dress usually worn by women. If this is so, the sufferage movement will take on a wider sweep. The object of the sex being vital capacity for public affairs, it will be argued that the corset stands in the way of the ballot. There are other considerations quite as important as these, which cannot well be handled except in a scientific physiological treatise. There is the fundamental difference in the voice and the thyroid gland. This does not affect the mere act of voting by ballot, but it has relations to other functions of public life, civil or military. And this is not so easily changed, even by a long process of selection, as the respiration. The affectability of women and their emotionality will also have to be discussed. This makes women angels, and makes them the other thing. It may decrease in social evolution, but it is physiologically fundamental, and can never be reduced to the male standard, and perhaps it is not desirable that it should be.—Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine for September.

Here and There.

"Pessimism and optimism are only other names for temperament," says Kate Field's Washington. It depends upon the quantity and quality of pie a philosopher eats.

One of the signs of the revival of business in the country is the heavy demand for small bills. The New York Sub-treasury has been taxed for some days to supply the demand.

It is a curious fact that the present China-Japanese war has had no effect whatever on the tea trade. The modern mania for cheap teas has so brought into vogue the use of Indian and Ceylon tea that the profitable Chinese tea trade of a quarter of a century ago is a myth, and many an owner of a nice, flourishing tea trade has lived to see the sad downfall of mercantile castles in the air. So that a war or two at this juncture makes no difference.—Philadelphia Record.

The Vicar of Cropedy, an Oxfordshire village, has had the following notice attached to the church door with regard to rice-throwing at weddings: "It is particularly requested that no rice be thrown at the conclusion of weddings when the bride and bridegroom leave the church. The bride's house, and not the church, is the right place for observances which have no connection with the religious ceremony, and are sometimes a cause of disorder and irreverence." South Bucks (Eng.) Free Press.

"Ephraim Flint, the veteran lawyer of Dover, Me., who died recently, was fined by a country justice of the peace for contempt of court in telling the magistrate too bluntly what he thought of one of his decisions. Mr. Flint was not taken back by the justice's order to his clerk. "All right," he said, "I have got a note in my pocket against you which I have been trying to collect for the last ten years, and I'll endorse the fine on it. I never expected to get that much," and suiting the action to the words, he pulled out the note and made the endorsement.—The Green Bag.

Death stood before the mirror adjusting his necktie. "Going out this evening?" asked Time casually.

"The dark angel nodded. "Invited?" "Well, I should hasten to cackle," he rejoined, as he fastened a boutonniere to his lapel. "They have ice cream and cucumbers on the same menu. Invited? Well rather."

With his overcoat and crush hat in his hands he departed.—Detroit Tribune.

"We are desirous," announced the Sultan, graciously, "of yielding a certain deference to the customs of civilization."

The courtiers exchanged glances. "We are able," his Majesty proceeded, "to compromise with the manners of enlightenment, and at the same time dispell the monotony that has invested our court. Accordingly—"

He motioned to his trumpeters to be in readiness.

"—we will try a couple of dozen common law marriages."—Detroit Tribune.

Mrs. Julius Caesar

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