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Storm Doors and Win-
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Mouldings of All Kinds
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A First-Class Hearse in connection.

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Malaga Grapes, 20 bbls. Apples, 10 bbls.
Ontario Cider, 20 gals. Providence River
Oysters arriving each week during the holi-
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I have in stock the best imported and domestic
Cigars to be found in the town. Confectionary,
Oranges, Lemons, Nuts of all kinds, Canned
Goods, etc., constantly in stock. I defy competi-
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price. Don't forget, when you are in town, and
give us a call and you will be sure to go home both
pleased and satisfied.

John M. Williamson.

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FALL LAP ROBES.
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F. L. ATHERTON,
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THE FOREST PRIMEVAL!

Masts for the Royal Navy.—Surveyor Gen-
eral Morris' Report on the Up River
Region.—The Natural State of the Coun-
try Before the Coming of the White Man.
(27.)

When the County of Sunbury was formed
in 1765 there was, as we have already noted,
no English settlement above the Indian vil-
lage of Aukpaque. Nevertheless the im-
mense forest wealth of the St. John river
was gradually becoming better known and ap-
preciated. The enormous lumbering opera-
tions carried on in modern days had their
small beginning nearly two hundred years
ago when masts for the French navy were
cut upon the river by order of the King of
France. Our authority on this point is
Monsieur Diereville, who came out to Acadia
in 1699, and published shortly after his re-
turn to France an entertaining account of his
travels. He mentions in his narrative the
arrival at the river St. John in the summer
or early autumn of 1700, of the French war
ship *Avenant* of 44 guns. She carried the
annual supplies for Governor Villebon, Louis
d'Amour and other Indian traders. After
discharging her cargo the ship took on board
some very fine masts for the French navy
that 14 carpenters and mast makers had pre-
pared on the St. John river for shipment.
At the invitation of Monsieur le Chevalier
de Chavagnac, the vessel's commander, Diere-
ville took passage in the *Avenant* for France.
The vessel started on her return voyage the
6th day of October and arrived at her desti-
nation with her cargo of masts 33 days later.

After the control of Acadia passed into the
hands of Great Britain the St. John supplied
masts for the English navy. The war ships
of those days required such tall masts that
trees suitable for the purpose were rarely to
be found except in the depths of the prime-
val forest; only the larger sized pines would
answer, and these sound to the core, perfectly
straight and free from shakes. The reserva-
tion of such trees had become a matter of
national concern. England relied upon her
navy to maintain her prestige among the
great powers, and the navy could not be kept
in a state of efficiency without an abundant
supply of masts. Accordingly Governor
Legge, by desire of the home government,
directed Charles Morris, surveyor general of
Nova Scotia, to submit a report specifying
what ungranted lands might be with advan-
tage reserved to provide masts for the navy.
On the 21st May, 1774, Mr. Morris sub-
mitted his report. In it he mentions that
his knowledge of the country is based upon
personal observations, during a residence of
nearly twenty-eight years, in the course of
which he had made excursions into nearly all
parts of the province. He states in his re-
port that very few pines fit for masts are to
be found in the peninsula of Nova Scotia, but
that "on the river St. John, above the present
settlements, following the course of the
river, and on the other rivers flowing into it
there are great quantities of pine trees fit
for masts, and great quantities of others grow-
ing into that state, which being so far within
land, protected by growth of other timber
and by hills, and remote from those violent
gales which infest the sea coast, will be the
most effectual reserve for such purposes." He
adds, "I am therefore of opinion that a re-
serve of all the lands on the river St. John
above the settlements (at Maugerville and
vicinity) for the whole course of the river, at
least twenty-five miles on each side, will be
the most advantageous reserve to the Crown
of lands within this province, especially as
the river is navigable for boats and rafting of
masts the whole course of it, as also for raft-
ing of masts in the several branches of it;
and in this tract it contained a black spruce
fit for yards and topmasts and other timber
fit for ship building."

It thus appears that the immense tract of
land bordering the river St. John from the
Nashwalk upwards, was at this time reserved
to the Crown simply because its towering
pine supplied the best masts the world af-
forded for the British navy. The future im-
portance of the "black spruce" fit for yards
and topmasts was little dreamed of by Mr.
Morris. His recommendation to govern-
ment proved of substantial value to the
Loyalists on their arrival; otherwise there
might have been little land reserved for their
accommodation. The governors of Nova
Scotia were continually issuing large grants
to retired army officers, government officials,
etc., and in consequence nearly all the un-
settled lands as far up as Fredericton were
held by a few individuals.

About the close of the last French war an
attempt had been made to induce the officers
and men of the regiments then disbanded to
settle upon the wilderness lands in various
parts of Nova Scotia; and for their encour-
agement large grants were made in propor-
tion to their rank. The result as far as
actual settlement was concerned was a dismal
failure. Governor Lawrence admits so much
when he says: "According to my ideas
of the military, they are the least qualified
from their occupation as soldiers of any men
living to establish new countries, where they
must encounter difficulties with which they
are altogether unacquainted, and I am the
rather convinced of it as every soldier that
has come into this province since the estab-
lishment of Halifax has either quitted it or
become a dram seller." The officers who
took out grants of from one to five thousand
acres seldom or never resided on their lands,
and in many instances their rights reverted
to the Crown.

The recommendation of surveyor general
Morris appears to have prevented the lands
on the St. John above Fredericton from fall-
ing into the hands of land grabbers and
speculators. We accordingly find at the
close of the Revolutionary war the immense
region was still an unbroken forest. It will
be shown hereafter that government did not
when granting these lands relinquish all
claim to the towering white pines the pride
of the primeval forests. Regulations for the
protection of "mast trees" were enforced
shortly after the arrival of the Loyalists by
Sir John Wentworth surveyor of the Woods
of British America who had as his first de-
puty on the river St. John, Col. Edward

Winslow. In the original Woodstock grant
and other early Loyalist grants all white
pine trees were reserved to the crown. The
penalty enacted against cutting such trees
was severe.

In this series of articles on our early his-
tory the writer has entered quite fully into
the customs and manners of life of the native
Indians, the original owners of the soil, and
has endeavored to give to the readers of the
DISPATCH about all that is to be gathered
from a great variety of sources respecting
their history. The character of the aborigines
of the river St. John as revealed in the light
of history may not appeal very strongly to
our admiration. It can hardly be denied
that there is more of savage ferocity, faithless-
ness and inconstancy associated with the
history of the Malisets than is altogether
pleasant to contemplate, yet Gyles and other
writers have afforded us here and there a
glimpse of kindlier sentiments showing that
the savage nature had after all its redeeming
features. Perhaps, as Parkman beautifully
expresses it, the Indian could sometimes feel,
without knowing that he felt them, the
charms of the savage nature that had adopted
him, "Rude as he was, her voice may not
always have been meaningless for one who
knew her haunts so well; deep recesses where,
veiled in foliage, some shy wild rivulet steals
with timid music through breathless caves of
verdure, gulfs where feathered crags rise like
castle walls, where the noon day sun pierces
with keen rays athwart the torrent, and the
mossed arms of fallen pines cast wavering
shadows on the illumined foam; pools of
liquid crystal turned emerald in the reflected
green of over hanging woods; rocks on whose
rugged front the gleam of sunlit waters
dances in quivering light; ancient trees hurl-
ed headlong by the storm to dam the raging
stream with their forlorn and savage ruin; or
the stern depths of immemorial forests dim
and silent as a cavern columned with innum-
erable trunks each like an Atlas upholding
its world of leaves and sweating perpetual mois-
ture down its dark and channelled rind;
some strong in youth, some grisly with de-
crepit age, nightmares of strange distortion,
gnarled and knotted with wens and gouts;
roots intertwined beneath like serpents
petrified in an agony of contorted strife;
green and glistening mosses carpeting the
rough ground, mantling the rocks, turning
pulpy stumps to mounds of verdure, and
swathing fallen trunks as bent in the impo-
tence of rotteness they lie outstretched over
knoll and hollow, like mouldering reptiles of
the primeval world, while around and on and
through them springs the young growth
which battens on their decay—the forest
devouring its own dead. Or, to turn from
its funeral shade to the light and life of the
open wood land, the sheen of sparkling lakes,
and mountains basking in the glory of the
summer noon, flocked by the shadow of pass-
ing clouds that sail on snowy wings across
the transparent azure." Who shall say that
all this was as a sealed book to the child of
the wilderness or that the voice of nature
never awoke a responsive chord within the
savage breast?

In the next article we shall consider the
conduct of the Malisets in the Revolutionary
war. It will be found that whilst the Indians
were credulous and fickle, the whites were not
overscrupulous in the methods they employ-
ed to secure their assistance. Only four days
after the declaration of independence the
United States Congress authorized Washing-
ton to call forth and engage the Indians of
the Nova Scotia, St. John and Penobscot
tribes to take up the hatchet against the
English. Twelve days later the very same
Congress in an address to the people of Ire-
land endeavored to gain sympathy and sup-
port by alleging, "that the wild and barbarous
savages of the wilderness have been solicited
by gifts to take up the hatchet against us and
instigated to deluge our settlement with the
blood of defenceless women and children."
Justin Winsor librarian of Harvard Uni-
versity, whose elaborate history of America
is one of the most notable of recent publi-
cations, admits the lamentable inconsistency of
the United States Congress as displayed in
the two instances just quoted.

W. O. RAYMOND.

*Parkman's *Old Regime in Canada.*

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