## THE DISPATCH.

INDIAN NAMES OF RIVERS IN YORK, CARLETON AND VICTORIA (Continued).

Meduxnakic, Medoctec, Shogomoc, Nackawick, Pokiok, Mactaquack, Scoodawabscook, Keswick, Nashwaaksis, Nashwaak.

#### [No 44]

In resuming our consideration of the origin of the names of the tributaries of the river St. John we begin with Woodstock's little river the Meduxnakic. The derivation of the name and the various forms it has from time to time assumed were quite fully considered in the first article of this series. It will be quite sufficient here to recall the fact that Meduxnakic means "rocky at its mouth"; the name is still an appropriate one though it was much more so before the mill dam was built and the larger ledges of rock removed by blasting.

Medoctec .- This old historic river is now known as Eel river; it is marked on some of the oldest maps of Acadia and is mentioned by French writers more than two centuries ago. The name signifies "falls" or "rapids." These are so abundant in the last ten miles of the river that it is only possible to descend to the mouth of the stream in canoes in the freshet season and the trip is then a very exciting one and only to be attempted by ex<sup>\*</sup> perienced canoe men. The Maliseets now call the stream Caut-a-wee-sip, which means Eel river. A few miles from its moath is a water fall, at the foot of which in former times salmon were taken in great abundancee by the Indians who camped there for the purpose. This was in all probability the place where John Gyles narrowly escaped drowning as recorded in one of our earlier

articles. Shogomoc .- Some authorities derive the name from Saagum-ook, meaning "chief's river," but Dr. Ganong is inclined to think the name in the first instance was applied to the large lake near the head of the river which the Indians call See-og-a-mook which means "muddy" or "still water." In Capt. Munroe's description of the St. John river the name given to the Shogomoc is Meduankato and it is so marked in the oldest plan of the upper St. John in the Crown land office at Fredericton. In early times the Shogomoc was often called Little Eel river by the Euglish settlers. It formed the south boundary of the grant made in 1777 to Tristram Hillman and other soldiers of the old loyalist corps and was also the lower boundary of the original parish of Woodstock.

Nackawick .-- This river is called by the modern Indians, Nel-gwa-wee-gek the meaning of which is doubtful. This river is mentioned in a former article as the upper boundary of one of the old French seigniorial grants made in 1690 the spelling there given is Nerkioutquek. Pokiok.-The word means "a deep gorge." Several streams in New Brunswick bear this name but to none is it so fittingly applied as to the one which falls into the St. John just below the Meductic rapids. In some of the older plans in the Crown land office Pokiok is called "Fall river." Capt. John Munroe makes no mention of it in his description of the St. John river and it is not impossible he may have passed it without noticing it. It is quite an easy matter to pass the Pokiok

one of the old French seiginorial grants made in 1690 and it is also found in several of the older plans of the Crown land office. The meaning of Scoodawabscook is said to be "burnt stream," the reference being doubtless to some old forest fire.

Mactaquack .- The Indians pronounce the word Mick-ta-quac but they are not able to tell the meaning of the name, the derivation of which like that of many others is obscure.

Keswick.-At a first glance the name of this river seems to be decidely of English origin but this after all is not the case. The name has passed through some curious transformations and is decidedly of Indian origin. The modern traveller sometimes smiles in a superior sort of way on the old inhabitants who talks about the Kisaway as if the word were a mere "provincialism", nevertheless the old inhabitant is nearer right than his would be critic. The Indians today call the river Noo-kam-keech-wee. Captain Munroe in his description of the St. John in 1783 speaks of the river as Madaru-kisseck, evidently a corruption of the old Indian name. In process of time the name was written Madam Keswick which later became contract-ed to Keswick. The signification of the original word Noo-kam-keech-wee or Noo-kamkeedge-wick the writer is unable to determine. The islands at the mouth of the river have supplied favorite camping grounds for the Savages, and were well known to the French. Nashwaaksis. -- This beautiful little stream

well known as a paradise for canoeists derive its name from the larger stream below, namely the Nashwaak, of which the word Nashwaaksis is merely a diminutive signifying 'the little Nashwaak.

Nashwaak .-- The word is undoubtedly a contraction for Nau-wid-ge-wank meaning "the river that winds among the hills" according to Mr. Edward Jack, although Dr. Ganong is of opinion that its true signification is "the river that interlaces with others"that is whose sources are interwoven with other rivers as the sources of the Nashwaak are with those of the Miramichi and the Keswick.

There is another river called by the Indians Nashwaak or rather Nauwidgewauk, which flows into the Kennebecasis a few miles below Hampton and is now known as Hammond River. The early French records speak of it as "petit Nachouac" or little Nashwaak to distinguish it from the Nashwack opposite Fredericton, where Governor Villebon had his fort. W. O. RAYMOND.

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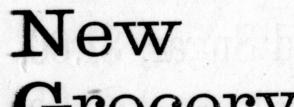
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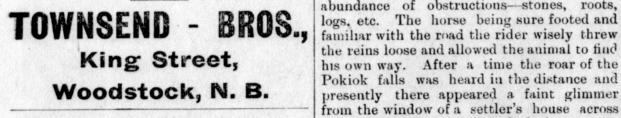
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without noticing it, as anyone acquainted with the locality knows. The dark red granite walls on either side the chasm are about seventy feet in height, accurately perpendicular and barely twenty five feet apart. The ravine is so narrow as not to be seen till the traveller is directly opposite it and then but for a moment in passing.

The Pokiok, if tradition is to be believed, was the scene of a thrilling adventure in the days of the early settlers. The story is as follows:-A belated traveller was journeying on horse back down the west side of the St. John river below the Shogomoc. It had been raining and the night was intensely dark. The road was rough and narrow with an abundance of obstructions-stones, roots, the reins loose and allowed the animal to find his own way. After a time the roar of the Pokiok falls was heard in the distance and presently there appeared a faint glimmer from the window of a settler's house across the stream. It was still so dark the man on horse back could scarce see his hand before his face.

#### Arrived at the bridge the horse hesitated as if frightened by the roar of the water but, upon being spoken to, proceeded, and a moment later stood at the settler's door. The belated traveller was welcomed with old time hopitality, the old tin lantern brought forth, the candle lighted and man of the house and traveller together proceeded to stable the

horse. The question was naturally asked "Where have you come from ?'

The traveller replied that he had ridden down from above the Shogomoc.

"Do you mean to tell me you crossed the Pokiok tonight?" said the host, in evident astonishment.

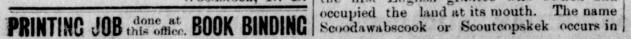
"Of course I did," was the answer. "Impossible !" said the Pokiok man "but we shall soon see.

Together the two men followed the tracks of the horse to the stream; as they reached he brink of the gorge, the Pokiok man, threw open the door of his tin lantern throwing the the light right ahead: "Look at that," he said. The traveller gazed in horror. The covering was off the bridge! The yawning chasm twenty five feet broad and its roaring torrent some seventy feet below was spanned only by two hewn timbers or stringers and on one of these, probably not more than 18 or 20 inches wide, the horse had crossed in

was called by the Indians the Scoodawabscook. This word was evidently impronounce-able for the white settlers and it gave place to that of "Long's Creek" so named after the first English grantee who owned and

Prophetic Madda and Alt Margaret





#### E. J. Clarke, QUEEN STREET. R. K. JONES. CONNELL'S BLOCK, - MAIN STREET. WOODSTOCK, N. B. Woodstock, June 10, 1895.

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