

## THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH

JUNE 22, 1897.

## CAPTAIN WILLIAM POTE'S

Journey Up the River St. John in the  
Year 1745.

[90]

[Continued]

Monday ye 8th. This Day In ye Morning ye Hurons began to Make preparation for their Departure up ye River of Saint Johns, at about Ten In ye morning we Imbarqued and Left those yt Came In ye Schooner mounted at Apog making Birch Canoes &c this Day we meet with much falling water &c, one of our Indians Called Jacob a prisoner yt formerly Belonged to Capt John Gorham's Company and was taken on Goat Island, was exceedingly out of order and could not assist ye Indians to paddle against ye Strong Current, Yt Ran against us ye Greater part of ye Day, his head was So Exceedingly Swelled, with ye Squaws beating of him, he Could Scarcely See out of his Eyes. I had ye Good fortune to be almost well in Comparison to what he was, although it was he and I was Companions, and Sat Next to Each other, In ye Time of their Dance, and him they always took for my partner to knock our heads Together ye Indians asked me In what Manner ye Squaws treated us, that his head was So Exceedingly Swelled I Gave them an account, at which they feigned themselves much Disgusted, and protested they was Intierly Ignorant of ye affair, and Said they thought ye Squaws Designed Nothing Else, but only to Dance round us for a Little Diversion, without mollisting or hurting of us In any manner, this Night we encamped by ye Side of ye River Saint Johns, our Indians Showed me a Root, yt they Said they often made Use of for Substinence when they had no provisions, this Night we all slept with Verrey hungry belleys.

Tuesday ye 9th. This Day we also had much falling water and Rippings to pass. Sometimes we was abliged to Land, and Carrey our Bagage over clefts of Rocks, and trees &c, that was in our way. This day ye Indians told me we Should arrive Near to another Indian Village, I asked them if they Supposed they would Use us in ye manner we had been, at ye other Village they made me no answer, but Said Something in Indian, yt Caused all ye Connews to Gather Round ye Connew yt I was in, & Discoursed in Indian what they Said I could not tell But I observed they Looked with a Verrey Serious Countenance on me, when I Saw a Convenient opportunity I spoke to this affect, Gentlemen You are all Verrey Sensible, of ye Ill Usage we met with at ye other Village, which I have Reason to believe, was Intierly Contrary to any of Your Inclinations or permission, and as you Call your Selves Christians, and men of honor, I hope you'll Use your prisoners accordingly, But I think it is Verrey Contrary to ye Nature of a Christian, to abuse men In ye manner we was at ye other Village and I am Verrey Sensible there is no Christian Nation yt Suffers their prisoners to be abused after they had Given them quarter. In ye manner we have been, the Indians Looked verrey Serious, and approved of what I said, and Talked amongst themselves in Indian, and my master told me when we arrived to ye Indian Village I must mind to keep Close by him. This Night we Incamped on an Island In ye River St. Johns, we had a small piece of Boilled Salmon, yt was Given to ye Indians by an Indian yt Lived on ye Island. This was Divided amongst our company, yt Consisted of twenty three persons.

[No. 91.—The Island where Captain Pote and his Indian captors encamped on the night of July 9, 1745 appears to have been the Island now called Island. In the plan of the grant made in 1787 to the King's American Regiment it is called "Fall Island" and was owned by Captain Isaac Atwood but in the oldest map of the upper St. John extant it is called Isle of Oanwells. There was an old Post House on the river at this point during the Revolutionary war for the accommodation of couriers. Captain Pote's journal contains as follows:—]

Whensday ye 10th. This Day we Took our Departure Early in the morning, ye Indians told me we should arrive to ye Indian Village (of Medocatie) before noon. This morning we passed by Several Small Spots of Cleard Land where ye Indians had Improved and planted Corn and beans &c., we arrived to ye Indian village about Noon, as soon as Squaws, saw us Coming in Sight of their village, and heard ye Cohoops, which Signified ye Number of Prisoners, all ye Squaws In their Village, prepared themselves with Large Rods of Briars, and Nettles &c., and met us at their Landing, Singing and Dancing and Yelling, and making such a hellish Noise, yt I Expected we Should meet with a worse Reception at this place that we had at ye other. I was Verrey Carefull to observe my master's Instructions, yt he had Given me ye Day before, and warned the Rest to do Likewise, our Indians Seemed Verrey Indifferent In Landing, and passed Some Small Distance above ye Lauding place. Ye first Connew yt Landed, was ye Capt of ye

Hurons, he had but one prisoner in his Connew, which was an Indian, yt had formerly Belonged to Captain John Gorham's Company. As Soon as he Landed he was not Carefull to keep By his master, and ye Squaws Gathered themselves Round him, and Caught him by ye hair, as many as could hold of him, and halled him down to ye Ground, and pound his head against ye Ground, ye Rest with their Rods dancing Round him, and wipted him over ye head and Legs, to Such a degree, that I thought they would have him killed. In ye Spot, or halled him in ye watter and Drowned him, they was So Eager to have a Stroak at him Each of them, that they halled him' Some one way and Some another, Some times Down towards ye water by ye hair of ye head, as fast as they could Run, then ye other party would have ye Better and Run with him another way, my master spoke to ye other Indians, and told ym to take ye fellow out of their hands, for he believed they would Certainly murder him, In a Verrey Short time. I Seeing ye Squaws Coming towards me, Endeavoured to hall on my Stockings as Soon as possible, for I Dreaded my Legs more than any thing Else, that was at that time So Sore, In Sitting in ye Connew in ye Sun yt I Could Scarcely Stand upon them, as Soon as ye Squaws approached Near me, my master spoke Something In Indian, In a Verrey harsh manner, yt Caused ym to Stop in there pursuit, and Returned to ye Rest and Led ye Indian, they Got hold of first up to their Village, and we was Conducted to ye Cpts Camp with me and all ye rest of ye Prisoners, Except ye poor Indian that was In ye hand of ye Squaws; our Indians as Soon as they had Set Down, Intreated of ye Capt of ye Village, to Relieve this poor Indian out of hands of ye Squaws and Told him, how we had been abused at ye other Village, ye Capt Verrey Readly Granted their Request, and Brought ye poor fellow to us half Dead; at this place Lived a Soldier yt was taken on Board ye Schooner montague, who gave me an account, how they abused him at his arrival. At this place we Incamped that night, with Verrey hungry Belleys 18 L. G. C. N. W. Medocatie. [That is 18 leagues from Aukpaque, general course North West.]

Thursday ye 11th. This Day we Remained In ye Village called Medocatie, I observed ye Squaws could not by any means Content themselves without having their Dance. They Continued Teasing my master to such a Degree, to have ye Liberty to Dance Round me, that he Consented they might if they would Promis to not abuse me, they Desired none of ye Rest, but me was all they aimed at for what Reason I cannot Tell. When my masters had Given ym Liberty, which was Done. In my abstinence, there Came Into ye Camp, two Large Strong Squaws, and as I was Setting by one of my masters, they Caught hold of my armes with all their strength, and Said Something in Indian, yt I Supposed was to tell me to Come out of ye Camp, and halled me of my Seat. I Strugled with ym and cleard my Self of their hold, and Set down by my master. They Came upon me again Verrey Vigorously, and as I was Striving with them, my master ordered me to Go, and told me they would not hurt me. At this I was obliged to Surrender and went with ym, they Led me out of ye Camp, Dancing and Singing after their manner, and Carried me to one of their Camps, and Gave me a Pipe and Tobacoe, and Danced Round me till the Sweat Trickled Down their faces, Verrey plentyfully, I Seeing one Squaw Dancing and Foaming at ye mouth and Sweating, to Such a degree yt I Could not forbear Smilling, which one of ye old Squaws Saw, and Gave me two or three twiches by ye hair, otherwise I Escaped without any Punishment from them at the time, This Day I was sent for by one of ye heads of their Tribe, To Read a Contract between their Tribe and ye Governour of Anapolis, that had been made about 14 years, I Told ye Indians they had acted Contrary to their agreement, which obliged them to Live in Peace, and without any mollistation on either Side. I told him also he must Confess their Nation had been ye first aggressors, he told me they had not, and Related to me Something Concerning ye Ill Usage of prisoners at Anapolis Some time past, But he was So Imperfect in ye french Tongue, yt I Could not Understand ye true meaning of his Discours. This Day arrived to this Village one Bonus Castine from Pernobsquett, who Examined me Verrey Strictly what our Cargo Consisted In &c, and wrote what I Said to him Concerning it, he told me he had Latly been on board the Country Sloop, Capt Sanders at Georges, and yt ye Prenobsquett Indians was Scill at peace with ye English, and he believed would Continue So Some considerable time. I thought It was not prudence to Contradict him, although I was Sensible there was Several Pernobsquett Indians, In ye army that we was Taken by. This night my master advised me to keep in ye Camp, and by no means Go out, and protested to me that this Bonus Castine, although he Pretended to be my friend, had Desired him to put me to Death, this Night ye Indians was Dancing and Singing ye Greater part of ye Night.

Friday ye 12th. This Day In ye morning began to make preparation for our Departure

at about Eight of ye clock took our Departure from Medocatie, for Canedy, This Day we paddled against Rippings and a Strong Current against us. This Night we Incamped By ye Side of ye River Saint Johns, Verrey hungrey and Little or Nothing to Eat. N. N. W. 6 Leagues—[This would be about at Hartland.]

Saturday ye 13th. This Day Paddled up ye River of Saint Johns about 9 Leagus, we was Exceeding Scant of Provisions, and Could not by any means Catch any fish nor kill any fowl. This night we Incamped by ye Side of ye River, and ye Indians had ye Good fortune to Catch a Couple of Salmon, that was Verrey Exceptable to us at that time. —[Near Bairdsville.]

Sunday. This Day as we was padding up ye River we passed by a Small Cove, and perceived, at ye head of it, there was Salmon playing in ye Cool water at ye head of ye Cove, we Landed verrey Carefully, and Cut Bushes and Brought them down to ye Entrance of ye Cove, and while Some of us was Employed, with perches and our paddles &c. thrashing in ye water, to hinder ye fish from Coming out of ye Cove, ye others built a ware across ye Entrance of ye Cove, with Bushes and our Blanketts &c and we Caught in this Cove fifty four Salmon which was so acceptable to us at that time that I shall never forget ye Joy I was filled with. This Day we passed by a River that Ran into Saint Johns, that ye Indians told me led almost to Pernobsquett, [That of course was the Aroostook.] This Day we came about 5 Leagues and incamped by ye side of ye River Saint Johns.

Monday ye 15th. This day we had pretty good paddling ye Greatest part of ye Day, and arrived to ye FALLS so called in Saint John's River. At this place ye Indians Gave me an account of ye Nature of ye River which is verrey Remarkable. It appeared to me Like ye head of ye River, and ye water Entirely still like a pond and ye Land exceeding high. Ye Indians told me we should carry over this high land about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, and find ye River as Large, and ye Current set as strong as any part of ye River, and they told me the River ran under this high land although there was no manner of sign to be perceived of it. This night we Incamped at this place and Roasted our Salmon. I computed we had come about 10 leagues N. W. B. N. and we supposed ourselves to Be about 70 Leagues from ye Entrance of ye River of Saint Johns.

Tuesday 16th. This Day we packed up our baggage and carried our Conews &c over ye high mountain into ye River of Saint Johns when I perceived ye River actually as ye Indians had described ye Day before. This Day ye wind blew verrey hard against us and my Master was something out of humour. He insisted I did not set steady in ye Connew. I told him I sat as still as I possibly could, he told me it was false at which I Grumbled a small matter, and had like to have had my head Broke; My Master took up his paddle and swung it Just above my head and told me if ever I was Guilty of ye like crime, he would certainly split my brains out. This Day we came about 8 Leagues and Incamped by ye River of Saint Johns.

Wednesday ye 17th. This Day we paddled about 5 Leagues in ye River of Saint Johns, and took another Small River [the Madawaska] that led into a large Lake. This night we Incamped by ye side of ye Small River. We computed we came fourteen Leagues this day G. C. N. W. B. W. [General Course North-west by west.]

Thursday ye 18th. This day in ye morning we arrived to a large pond about 10 Leagues in length."

Having thus followed Capt. Wm. Pote in his journey from Bay Verte in the South East corner of the province to Lake Temiscouata in the north-west corner we shall follow him no further, merely adding that the journey was continued via the Tuladi to the St. Lawrence and thence to Quebec.

The traveller who lazily reclines in his parlor car and in the course of fifteen hours is carried by an express train on the Intercolonial railway from Amherst to Riviere du Loup can have no idea at all of the toils and perils of the same journey a hundred years ago. William Pote and his companions spent four toilsome weeks in going from Chignecto to the St. Lawrence a journey that may now be made in fifteen hours or less. The contrast and all that it implies is inconceivably great.

It will be noted by any reader, who carefully follows Capt. Pote's journal, that the Indians averaged about twenty miles a day in their journey up the river St. John which was, all things considered, a very fair rate of travelling.

It cannot however be said that the Indian ladies of Medocatie and Aukpaque had improved in their politeness and their treatment of strangers in the fifty years that had elapsed since John Gyles had such a lamentable experience at their hands.

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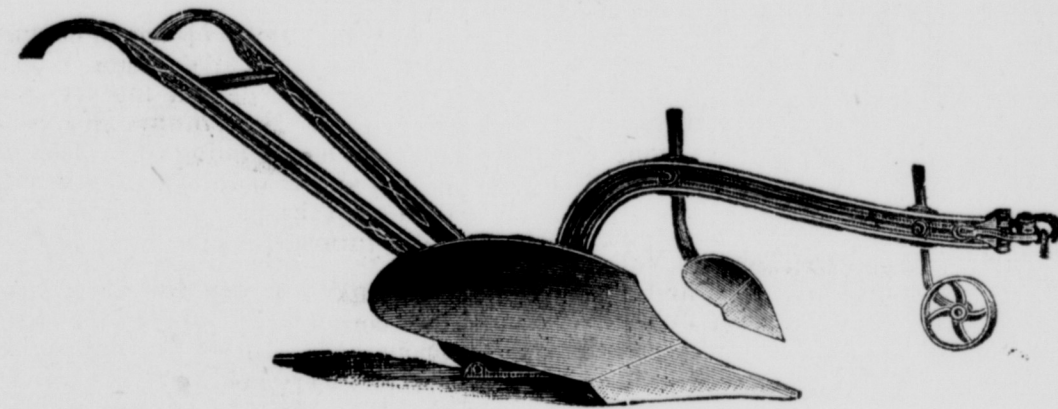
Mr. Thos. Gladman, book-keeper for Adam Hall, Esq., stove and tinware dealer, Peterboro, writes the following facts:—"Have been troubled for nine years with Eczema on my leg, and at times the itching was something terrible; tried many eminent doctors and was pronounced incurable. I had given up hopes of even being cured when I was recommended by Mr. Madill, druggist, to try a box of Dr. Chase's Ointment, and I am happy to testify that after using two boxes I am completely cured."

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