

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE.

Some years ago, when the American Fur Company and Hudson Bay Company carried on a powerful opposition to each other in the wild and rocky territory of the Oregon, several little forts were erected in the interior, whence the commerce in peltries was made with the Indians. One of these, to which the name of Spokan was given, was situated in a valley, where pasture for cattle and comfort for man were as much as possible combined with security and safety. In this spot, known as Spokan Fort, dwelt James McPherson, the owner and proprietor of that wild locality. McPherson was a Scotchman, who in early days had left his native country a poor lad, and now, by the exercise of that persevering character which has distinguished him, had attained the position of a well-to-do merchant. Of an enterprising disposition, he had penetrated into the interior in search of further wealth; and having for some years settled himself at Spokan, he had become a thriving trader with the Indians, despite the impediments thrown into his way by his rivals.

It was about two years after the establishment of the fort, and when the Indians were in activity and bustle, that Edward Ray, a young Louisiana, obtained an appointment under the owner, and travelling the whole distance for New Orleans, had conveyed a cargo of merchandise to the fort, and returned. In addition to this, he had taken up, to rejoin his father, Miss McPherson and a female attendant. So peculiar and so long a journey had thrown the young people much together, and without any reflection with regard to their difference of position, a mutual affection had arisen between them. Under these circumstances the voyage up the Mississippi and across the vast interior plains, was of a most agreeable character. Both lingered upon the deck to admire the bluffs and grassy plains, the vast interminable prairies; and never wearied of their gaze. The desert even had charms; and the Rocky Mountains burst upon them all in their sublimity, their pleasure was complete. At length, however, they arrived at their journey's end. Ray became a clerk, and Miss McPherson presided over the establishment, as the chief business owner was in duty bound to do. What ever might have been the lady's feelings, the poor clerk sought not to learn. He felt the difference of station, and, shrinking from the lady's acquaintance, he attended to his duties honestly and diligently, but without ever showing the slightest enthusiasm for the avocation.

About three months after his arrival, the time approached when the annual interview with the various Indians took place; a meeting of much importance, and the whole fortunes of the year were decided. It was usual to appoint a place for the natives to camp with their beaver and other skins, where the rival traders then repaired, and the offer of the best price obtained a ready and profitable market. About two days before the time appointed, the heads of the fort were seated at their evening meal. The whole party were engaged in discussing the good things before them, when a bustle was heard without, and, after a pause of a moment, a half-breed hunter appeared on the threshold.

"What news, Nick?" said McPherson, who recognized in the intruder a scout sent out to learn the proceedings of the rival traders.

"Bad," said Nick, advancing, "Master Sublette got ahead of Spokan. The Indians all at camp already, with plenty beaver. Master Sublette buy up all, but him got no tobacco, and he sent away to Brown for some; then smoke, and enter all the beaver."

"Why, that is good news," said McPherson, laughing; "if Sublette has no tobacco, all is right. We have plenty; and not an Indian will sell a skin until he has had a good pipe and a bowl of peace. So up, my men, he continued, addressing his clerks; "you must stay and out-general Sublette, by taking Johnson a good supply of the weed."

"The Blackfeet," cried McPherson; "then we are defeated surely. What is to be done?"

"If Johnson, our agent, had but one replied the trader despondingly, 'all would be right. It is impossible, however, and this year is lost to me.' 'By no means,' said the clerk, rising, with all his native energy and fire beaming in his eye; 'Johnson shall have the bale, or my scalp shall hang in a Black-ford lodge before morning!'

"Edward!" exclaimed the daughter with an alarmed gasp, then the clerk, with the father's eyes to what hitherto had been a profound secret.

"Are you in earnest, Mr. Ray?" said McPherson gravely, and even sternly. "I am, sir; give me Wild Poly (a favorite mare), and trust me for me for accomplishing your wishes."

"You will go alone, then?"

"I will."

"McPherson ordered the mare he valued so much to be saddled, and in half an hour Edward Ray, with two bales of tobacco behind him, and armed to the teeth, sallied forth from Spokan amid the plaudits of the whole party, whose astonishment regarded less the perilousness of the adventure, than the character of the man who undertook it. Miss McPherson conscious of the interest she had betrayed in her father's clerk, hastily retired to her chamber; while the father, after carefully fastening the gates, and posting the provisions, sat in his pipe and seated himself, absorbed in reflection, by the huge fireplace in the principal department.

Meanwhile Edward Ray, after leaving the fort, rode slowly down the valley, reflecting the most anxious of the young man's journey. He felt that he had rashly ventured on a wild and doubtful enterprise, and, under ordinary circumstances, would have soon turned back; but he knew the opinion his fellows had of him, and felt with pride that no one had offered even to accompany him. Besides, in the presence of her loved, he had undertaken his bold task, and was determined that she should not think him indifferent and timid. A ride of half an hour brought him out of the valley, and upon the skirt of a plain of some extent. Here Ray halted, and gazing upon the prairie that lay at his feet, endeavored to discover some sign of the Blackfeet. The moon shone brightly upon the waters and woods, and not a sound disturbed the stillness of an American night in the wilderness. Ray felt the influence of the hour and the place; and forgetting all but the delight of travelling by moonlight over that plain, he rode some twenty miles from civilization, set spurs to his mare, and trotted swiftly along the path leading in the direction of the Indian trail. It was some time before the young man perceived the sudden hesitation on, and then a mare brought him back to consciousness. Raising his eyes, he found him self close upon a wood, between which and a somewhat broad river he had now to pass. A single glance told him that the Indians were near, as a light smoke rose from amid the trees; whether they had discovered him, was a matter of uncertainty. Ray determined to make a bold dash; and, trusting to his own speed, at a hard gallop along the skirt of the

Legal Notices.

NOTICE. ALL persons claiming any right or interest in any of the public streets, roads, or ways within the Road District of the Town of Chatham, will be at liberty to object to the same, by presenting a petition to the Board of Aldermen, on or before the 15th day of November next, at the Public Office in Chatham, between the hours of twelve noon and 2 o'clock p. m.

SHERIFF'S SALE! To be sold at Public Auction on Thursday the 11th day of November next, in front of the Post Office in Chatham, between the hours of twelve noon and 2 o'clock p. m. All the right 1000 acres of land of Charles Hickey in and to all that Piece or Tract of Land situated in the Parish of Annapolis and County of Northumberland, and bounded as follows: viz. South by the lot of the said Hickey, North by the lot of the said Hickey, East by the lot of the said Hickey, and West by the lot of the said Hickey, containing 100 acres more or less; and being the land and premises of the said Charles Hickey at present residing.

General Business.

MOSS & SON. Have removed to their old stand Bannons Corner, Chatham. Where you can always find a good stock of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, &c.

THE SUBSCRIBER begs to tender his thanks to the public of Miramichi for the liberal patronage which he has received since he has removed to his new stand at the corner of Water Street, next door to the store of J. B. Snowball, Esq., where he will be at all times ready to receive the liberal patronage of new ones. He has on hand a most complete new stock of

MOSS & SON. TAILORING. They offer a reward of two dollars to anyone who will restore to them a pair of broken eye glasses in a leather case, which they lost in moving.

JOHN HOWAT GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS! Just arriving, a fresh lot of plain and fancy Flour, Choice, Extra, and Superfine, all of the best quality, and at low prices.

NOTICE OF SALE. To Daniel McLaughlin formerly of Bonaville River in the County of Northumberland and Sheriff of the County of Northumberland, in and to all that Piece or Tract of Land situated in the Parish of Annapolis and County of Northumberland, and bounded as follows: viz. South by the lot of the said Hickey, North by the lot of the said Hickey, East by the lot of the said Hickey, and West by the lot of the said Hickey, containing 100 acres more or less; and being the land and premises of the said Charles Hickey at present residing.

ALL KINDS OF CLOTHS, from which selections may be made for Suits or single Garments, of which is respectfully invited.

ALL-RAIL LINE, Chatham to Boston in 54 hours without change of Cars.

With the completion of the Cantlewell Bridge at St. John an All-Rail Freight Service is established from points East and North of St. John to Boston and other points in the United States, and doing away with the long Team Transfers at St. John by putting freight through in the same cars which it is placed at the point of shipment—thus saving freight and avoiding the damage incident to team transfers.

Two through Freight Trains leave St. John daily to Boston and other points West, and Fish will leave Chatham at 8 1/2 p. m. daily, and will arrive in Boston this morning after a 4 a. m. in full time for that day's Market—making the run, in through cars, from Chatham to Boston in 54 hours.

THE RATES OF FREIGHT are as low as by any other route.

THE ALL-RAIL LINE presents the best facilities for fresh fish transport in summer or Winter, as well as for Eggs, Lobsters and all other classes of freight.

For Rates, &c. see tariff issued by the Inter-colonial Navigation Company, or in the hands of the agents of "The Miramichi Steam Navigation Company."

ROSAIRY BUTTONS! ROSAIRY TRIMMINGS! Black Silk Brocade! Black Braid Trimmings! ALSO A NICE LINE OF Jet Dress Fronts Loggie & Co., 67 Opposite Golden Ball.

Marble Works!! The subscriber has removed his WORKS from Upper Chatham to the premises on WATER ST. CHATHAM, lately occupied by MR. ALEX. HAY, and LEY, Blacksmith, near the Ferry, where he is prepared to execute orders for

MONUMENTS, HEAD STONES, TABLES AND METEMERY WORK, GRANITE, &c.

Also: COUNTERS and TABLE TOPS and other Miscellaneous Marble and Fine Stone Work. A good stock of MARBLE constantly on hand. EDWARD BA REY CHATHAM.

LIVERPOOL SALT! IN BAGS. FOR SALE BY NEW BRUNSWICK TRADING COMPANY, LANDING.

1 Car Graminated Sugar. 1 " Refined. 40 Cases Sugar Corn. 20 Green Pot. 100 Bunch Soap. 120 " Spices. " New Cheese.

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TO RENT North half of DOUBLE HOUSE situated on King Street, (the other half is at present occupied by Mr. A. D. Smith).

ALSO— One half of the Double House situated on Church Street, adjoining half occupied by Mr. Robert McGuire and Mr. Harry Edley. Apply to J. B. SNOWBALL.

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