

ST. JOHN'S EARLY DAYS.

MEN WHO LAID THE FOUNDATION OF A CITY.

Fort Frederick—The First English Settlers—John Allan's Excursion to Annapolis—The Battle of the Falls—Incidents in the Lives of Brave Pioneers.

After the decisive victory gained by the English over Boisherbert in the summer of 1758, the French finally abandoned the old strongholds at the mouth of the St. John, which had remained in their possession for more than a century. The captured fort was garrisoned during the winter by a body of Provincial troops and a company of rangers, sent from Louisbourg. In March of the next year, a party of the rangers, under Captain McCurdy, started up the river on snowshoes to reconnoitre the country. The first night they encamped on a hill-side near the mouth of Kingston Creek, and it is stated that Captain McCurdy lost his life the same night by the falling of a large birch tree, which one of the rangers cut on the hill-side above, and which came crashing down upon the spot where poor McCurdy was, killing him instantly. In spite of the loss of their commander the party proceeded until they reached St. Ann's Point (now Fredericton), where they found quite a village, which the inhabitants had deserted at their approach. They set fire to the chapel and other buildings and returned with some precipitation to the mouth of the river. The fort was rebuilt and named Fort Frederick, and respectable barracks were erected in connection with it. The garrison at this time was commanded by Col. Arbuthnot. The Rangers were sent to join General Wolfe's expedition against Quebec and the fort was garrisoned during the summer by a detachment of New England troops.

A noteworthy event of this year is the terrific storm of Saturday, November 3rd, which rivalled, if it did not exceed the fierceness of the famous "Saxby" gale of 1869. The tide is said to have reached a height of six feet above its ordinary level. Driven by the storm, huge waves broke down the dykes at the head of the bay, and did an immense amount of damage along the coast. A considerable portion of Fort Frederick was washed away. Colonel Arbuthnot's garrison numbered about 200 men. The colonel seems to have been a very efficient and capable officer. He exerted himself to bring about amicable relations with the Indians, who had been decidedly hostile to British interests during "the old French war." Largely through his efforts a treaty was arranged with the chiefs of the St. John and Passamaquoddy tribes and a "truck house" established at Fort Frederick for the carrying on of a regular Indian traffic. The chiefs having completed the treaty, left Halifax resplendent in the hats and blankets trimmed with gold lace, which they had received as a parting gift from Governor Lawrence.

Quebec had fallen, and with the return of peace garrison duty at Fort Frederick doubtless became very monotonous. About the ramparts there was some life and stir, but elsewhere the prospect was dreary enough. The few habitations formerly existing had been destroyed and abandoned as yet appeared. The provincial troops began to pine for their own fireside and in spite of opposition seventy of the garrison openly left in one schooner and eighty in another for their homes. Col. Arbuthnot had at this time retired from the command, and Lieut. Tongue, who succeeded him, represents the fort as being in great need of repairs and alterations to make it defensible.

The following year, 1761, Fort Frederick was garrisoned by a company of Highlanders. During the summer Capt. Bruce, of the Royal Engineers, made the first accurate survey of St. John harbor, giving to us the well-known Bruce chart, copies of which are in the possession of many of our citizens today. During the next few years the military post was maintained by a company from some of the British regiments under different commanders.

First English Settlers at St. John.

In the year 1762 arrived the pioneer New England settlers, Messrs. Simonds, White, Peabody, Quinton, Leavitt, and others—a party of about twenty persons in all, and we may here note the fact that to James, son of Hugh Quinton, appertains the distinction of being the first English child whose birth is recorded at St. John. He was born in the barracks at Fort Frederick, August 28, 1762, the very day on which the party arrived. The barracks, then unoccupied, furnished a shelter for Hugh Quinton, his wife and infant and several others, among the number, Miss Hannah Peabody, afterwards the wife of James Simonds.

Messrs. White, Simonds and the rest of the company proceeded to the site of the old French fort, at Portland Point, where they erected a house to accommodate the whole party, the frame of which was brought in their vessel from Newburyport. To this house the Quintons and others at Fort Frederick soon after removed.

Captain Bruce's map shows the only cleared spots about the harbor at this time to have been at and near Fort Frederick and the ruins of the French fort at Portland Point.

The Highland regiment having been withdrawn from Fort Frederick, a company of the Royal Fencible Americans, under Captain Giltred Studholm was sent to garrison the post.

The settlers at St. John were much alarmed in the year 1765 by the conduct of the Indians who threatened to declare war against all the English settlements on the ground that the whites had interfered with their rights by killing moose, beavers, and other wild animals beyond the limits of their farms and improvements. Sentries were doubled at Fort Frederick and precautions taken against surprise. Through the instrumentality of Governor Montagu Wilnot the difficulty was satisfactorily adjusted and hostilities averted.

Fort Frederick was under the command of Ensign Jeremiah Mears in 1766, but two years later we find James Simonds writing to his partners in Newburyport: "The troops are withdrawn from all the outposts in the province and sent to Boston to quell the mob. The charge of Fort Frederick is committed to me which I accepted to prevent another person being appointed who would be a trader. I don't know but I must reside in the garrison, but the privilege of the fisheries on that side of

the river and the use of the king's boats will be more than an equivalent for that inconvenience."

The fort and barracks remained in charge of James Simonds till 1774, when a corporal and six privates were installed as the garrison.

The Revolutionary war was now at hand, and the folly of placing so ridiculously small a garrison at so important a post as the mouth of the St. John was soon apparent.

Machias Marauders.

In August, 1775, a party from Machias, commanded by one, Stephen Smith, came in an armed sloop of four guns to the harbor of St. John, made the small party in Fort Frederick prisoners, plundered them of everything, and then burned both fort and barracks. At the same time they captured a brig of 120 tons, laden with oxen, sheep, swine, poultry, and other supplies procured from Maugerville and intended for the British army in Boston.

This was but the commencement of a series of expeditions, all of which emanated from the American post at Machias, and which for several years involved the loyal settlers at the mouth of the St. John in the greatest distress. This series of piratical attacks included the visit of an armed brig in the spring of 1776, the expedition of Col. Jonathan Eddy later in the same year, and the visit of a "rebel visitor" the following spring. This last visitor proved particularly inimical to the prospects of our little colony. The inhabitants were stripped of nearly all their possessions. From James White's store alone the enemy carried off twenty-one boat loads of merchandise. The settlers fled to the woods where they remained till the plunderers had departed, when William Hazen, accompanied by two Indians, crossed the bay in a canoe to represent the condition of things to the Nova Scotia government. The war sloop *Valture* came over from Annapolis with Colonel Gould and a party of men, but beyond the efforts made to secure the friendship of the St. John river Indians, they did little for the protection of the settlers.

John Allan's Excursion to Annapolis.

Immediately after the departure of Col. Gould and the *Valture*, the "rebel" colonel John Allan set out from Machias with a party of soldiers and Indians in four whale boats and about a dozen canoes. They landed at a place called "Mechogonish" (near the Bay Shore), whence a party consisting of two officers and sixteen men, accompanied by an Indian with his birch canoe, proceeded across the neck of land to the place where Randolph and Baker's Mill now stands. Thence by means of the Indian's canoe they crossed to the east side of the river, and coming stealthily through the woods, surprised and captured James Simonds and William Hazen at Portland Point. Allan, with a few followers, proceeded up the river to the Indian village of *Annapolis*—about six miles above Fredericton, leaving Captain West and Lieutenant Scott at the head of a party of sixty men at the mouth of the St. John. The prisoners Simonds and Hazen were also taken up the river. Allan remained about a month at Annapolis endeavoring by means of presents and specious arguments to secure the services of the Indians for the Americans in the war. This he found no easy task as the Indians had already exchanged friendly pledges with Colonel Gould the British agent.

Allan's instructions to Captain West were: "to range the woods from Hazen's (Portland Point) across the river above the falls round to the Old Fort." He was to offer strenuous resistance in case any attempt was made by the British to go up the river.

The Battle at the Falls.

The loyalists managed to apprise the Halifax authorities of their situation and a joint force of regulars and militia from Halifax and Fort Cumberland under Brigadier Major Studholm of the Royal Fencibles and Colonel Francklin arrived at St. John June 30th, at which time his majesty's ships *Mermad* and *Ambuscade* with the sloops *Valture* and *Hope* lay off the harbor. The English landed about 120 men "at one Peabody's at Mahogany Bay." They marched about two miles and a halt through the woods, met the enemy near the falls and after a sharp skirmish, in which several men were killed, put them to flight. The Americans retired with such precipitation that by one o'clock the same day they had reached a point twenty-five miles up the river.

Captain West and his party ascended the Oromocto river, crossed to the head waters of the Magaguadavic, which they descended to Passamaquoddy bay and after a rough experience reached Machias. Allan, himself, retired up the river to the Indian village, near the mouth of the Meductic, following the old Indian route via Cheputnicook lakes, St. Croix river and Schoodic lakes to the head waters of the Machias. In his flight he was accompanied by no less than 128 Indian canoes, carrying a party of about 480 Indians, men, women and children. It is a difficult matter to determine the motives that controlled the Indians in this notable exodus. They seemed to have been inspired with a wholesome dread of British vengeance—a natural consequence of their double dealing, since they seem with equal readiness to have exchanged pledges with either party and to have received presents from both sides with the greatest equanimity. It is, however, undeniable that the efforts of Allan had at this time secured the good will of the Indians and their sharing his flight was probably as much a matter of inclination as of necessity. The party had a sorry time of it, the heat of summer, abundance of mosquitoes, and lowness of the streams making the passage to Machias an exceedingly arduous one.

The severe experience of the little colony at the mouth of the River St. John rendered it necessary to provide for their future protection. Accordingly in December, 1779, a party of soldiers arrived in a transport ship from Halifax under the conveyance of a sloop of war which remained in the harbor for the protection of the garrison till the following spring.

Forest Trees in Gardens.

According to Dr. Chapman, the practice of allowing forest trees to grow in our gardens "only prejudices the health of our families." It carbonic acid gas is absorbed by trees in the day time it is exhaled during the night. Dense foliage prevents a free current of air, excludes sunlight, causes damp, etc., and malades are the result.

THE PLANETS IN JUNE.

Where They Are and Where They Are Expected to Be.

For several months Venus has been an interesting object in our western sky. It has been continually increasing in brightness, and on June 2 attained its maximum brilliancy. It will then be visible to the naked eye in the day time, as has been the case during May. Those who have good eyes and know exactly where to look for it may easily find it.

At present the planet is rapidly approaching the sun and will be at inferior conjunction with it July 9. It will then be between the earth and sun. As it approaches this position its illuminated side will, more and more, be turned away from the earth. At the beginning of June about 25 per cent of the illuminated portion will be turned towards the earth; at the end of the month only about 3 per cent. It will then appear in telescopes as a very narrow crescent, much like that of the moon when a day or two old. At the end of the month it will be near the sun and cannot be observed to advantage except in the day time. During the early part of July it will be invisible on account of its nearness to the sun. When it again becomes visible it will be as a morning star, and it will continue a morning star until next April.

Mars is slowly coming into better position for observation, both on account of its rising earlier in the night and by its decreasing distance from the earth. During June it rises about 11 p. m. and reaches the meridian about 3.30 a. m. It is in the constellation Capricorn, being the most brilliant object in that part of the heavens. It will be interesting to watch its motions among the stars; during July and August westward, and then eastward again. During the four months from June 1 it will describe a large loop in the constellation Capricorn and will then move rapidly in a northeasterly direction in nearly a straight line, across the constellations Aquarius and Pisces. At the end of the year the planet will be in the latter constellation. The opposition of Mars this year is particularly favorable on account of its nearness to the earth. It is not since 1877 that it has approached so near. It was then that the moons of Mars were discovered. It is hoped that the observations which will be made this summer will throw much light on the many unsettled questions concerning its physical condition and also that accurate data may be obtained for a more precise determination of the solar parallax, or in other words, of the earth's mean distance from the sun.

Jupiter is a morning star. For some time this planet has been too near the sun to be seen, but now the distance has increased so much that it may be seen fairly well for an hour or two in the morning. Jupiter will be in conjunction with the moon on the morning of June 19. The moon will pass about one degree north of the planet.

Saturn is now in good position for observation. During the evening hours of June the planet may be found in the southwest, about one-third of the way from the horizon to the zenith. The rings still have their edges nearly towards the earth, so that they cannot be seen to advantage. They will begin to open somewhat in the latter part of June and from that time on will come into better position for observation. Saturn's disc is crossed by faint dusky markings parallel to the planet's equator. They are so faint that only large telescopes show them. Some spots on the disc were seen last year, but none have been reported this year, at least none of sufficient distinctness to enable the rotation period of the planet to be determined from them.

Uranus is in the constellation Virgo, and is moving slowly westward among the stars.

Neptune is near the sun and cannot be seen. Mercury is also near the sun.

EATING BEFORE SLEEPING.

Some Interesting Remarks Upon a Mooted Question.

It used to be considered prejudicial to good health to partake of food just before going to bed. But many physicians now recommend to their patients a light meal before retiring. On this subject Dr. W. T. Cathell, in *Md. Med. Jour.*, says:

Many persons, though not actually sick, keep below par in strength and general tone, and I am of the opinion that fasting during the long interval between supper and breakfast, and especially the complete emptiness of the stomach during sleep, adds greatly to the amount of emaciation, sleeplessness and general weakness we so often meet.

Physiology teaches that in the body there is a perpetual disintegration of tissue, sleeping or waking; it is therefore logical to believe that the supply of nourishment should be somewhat continuous, especially in those who are below par, if we would counteract their emaciation and lowered degree of vitality; and as bodily exercise is suspended during sleep, with wear and tear correspondingly diminished, while digestion, assimilation, and nutritive activity continue as usual, the food furnished during this period adds more than is destroyed, and increased weight and improved general vigor is the result.

All beings except man are governed by natural instincts, and every being with a stomach, except man, eats before sleep; and even the human infant, guided by the same instinct, sucks frequently day and night, and if its stomach is empty for any prolonged period, it cries long and loud. Digestion requires no interval of rest, and if the amount of food during the twenty-four hours is, in quantity and quality, not beyond the physiological limit, it makes no hurtful difference to the stomach how few or how short are the intervals between eating; but it does make a vast difference in the weak and emaciated one's welfare to have a modicum of food in the stomach during the time of sleep, that, instead of being consumed by bodily action, it may during the interval improve the lowered system. I am fully satisfied that were the weakly, the emaciated, and the sleepless to nightly take a light lunch or meal of simple, nutritious food before going to bed for a prolonged period, nine in ten of them would be thereby lifted into a better standard of health.

In my specialty (nose and throat) I encounter cases that, in addition to local and constitutional treatment, need an increase

of nutritious food; and I find that by directing a bowl of bread and milk, or a mug of beer and a few biscuits, or a saucer of oatmeal and cream before going to bed, for a few months, a surprising increase in weight, strength, and general tone results. On the contrary, persons who are too stout or plethoric should follow an opposite course.

Col. Bob Talks About Poets.

"When you read Shakespeare and don't find something new your mind is failing," says Col. Robert G. Ingersoll. According to this dictum what a massive mind Ig. Donnelly must have! "Pope Bob" delivered himself of some interesting opinions about literature during a chat with a Kansas City reporter the other day. "The greatest poem ever written on this continent," said he, "is Whitman's poem on the death of Lincoln, entitled 'When Lilacs Last in the Doorway Bloomed.' The greatest novel in our language and it may be the greatest in any language, is Dickens' 'Tale of Two Cities.' Hawthorne was a great writer, but his style is a little monotonous. Edgar Fawcett is a great poet; his 'Magic Flower' is as beautiful as anything Tennyson has ever written." And so the genial colonel chattered on, dropping a pearl of thought at every period and a wise saw at every semicolon; but one of his sayings is well worth remembering—that "the creations of Dickens' brain have become the citizens of the world."

THINGS OF VALUE.

Gratitude is the soil on which joy thrives.—Auerbach.

Happiness does away with ugliness, and even makes the beauty of beauty.—Amiel.

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Ignorance, in the midst of the refinements of society, is the most hateful of all mixtures.—Mme. de Staël.

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Getting money is not all a man's business; to cultivate kindness is a valuable part of the business of life.—Johnson.

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A rich man is an honest man, no thanks to him, for he would be a double knave to cheat mankind when he had no need of it.—Daniel DeFoe.

We should miss a great deal that is valuable in human nature if we confined our attention exclusively to important personages.—Hamerton.

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It is a shameful and unseemly thing to think one thing and to speak another, but how odious to write one thing and think another.—Seneca.

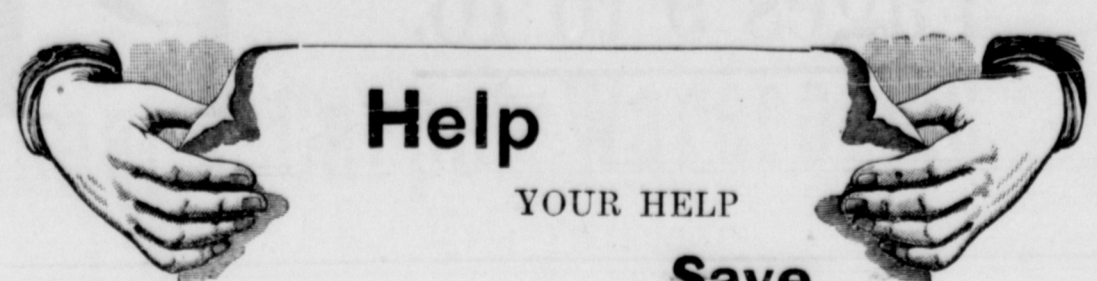
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Grief sharpens the understanding and strengthens the soul, whereas joy seldom troubles itself about the former and makes the latter either effeminate or frivolous.—Franz Schubert.

No man has come to true greatness who has not felt in some degree that his life belongs to his race, and that what God gives him he gives him for mankind.—Phillips Brooks.



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Dark Clouds and Sunshine.

A STORY IN FOUR CHAPTERS.

CHAPTER II.

A TEARFUL MOMENT.

WHEN Jack came home, his young wife was writing a letter to her sister. Every woman has a friend, one she can trust and confide in, and the young woman's sister filled that office for her. Jack was not feeling as agreeable as he might have been. Even on Sunday, business cares worried him, and like many men, he found it impossible to conceal his troubles and his wife had to share them with him. She was crying when he rested his hands on the table, but his enquiries brought no response. She knew that he had enough to trouble him, and pleaded headache. In her confusion she forgot all about dresses, until Jack suggested that they go out for a walk.



A TEARFUL MOMENT.

"But," said he, stopping suddenly, "I am hardly fit to appear on the street with you in this suit, and it is the best I have. What is worse, I don't know how I am going to get another one." Poor Mrs. Lovington. That settled everything. How could she say anything about her own wants now?

She was silent for a moment, then a bright thought struck her.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

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