

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

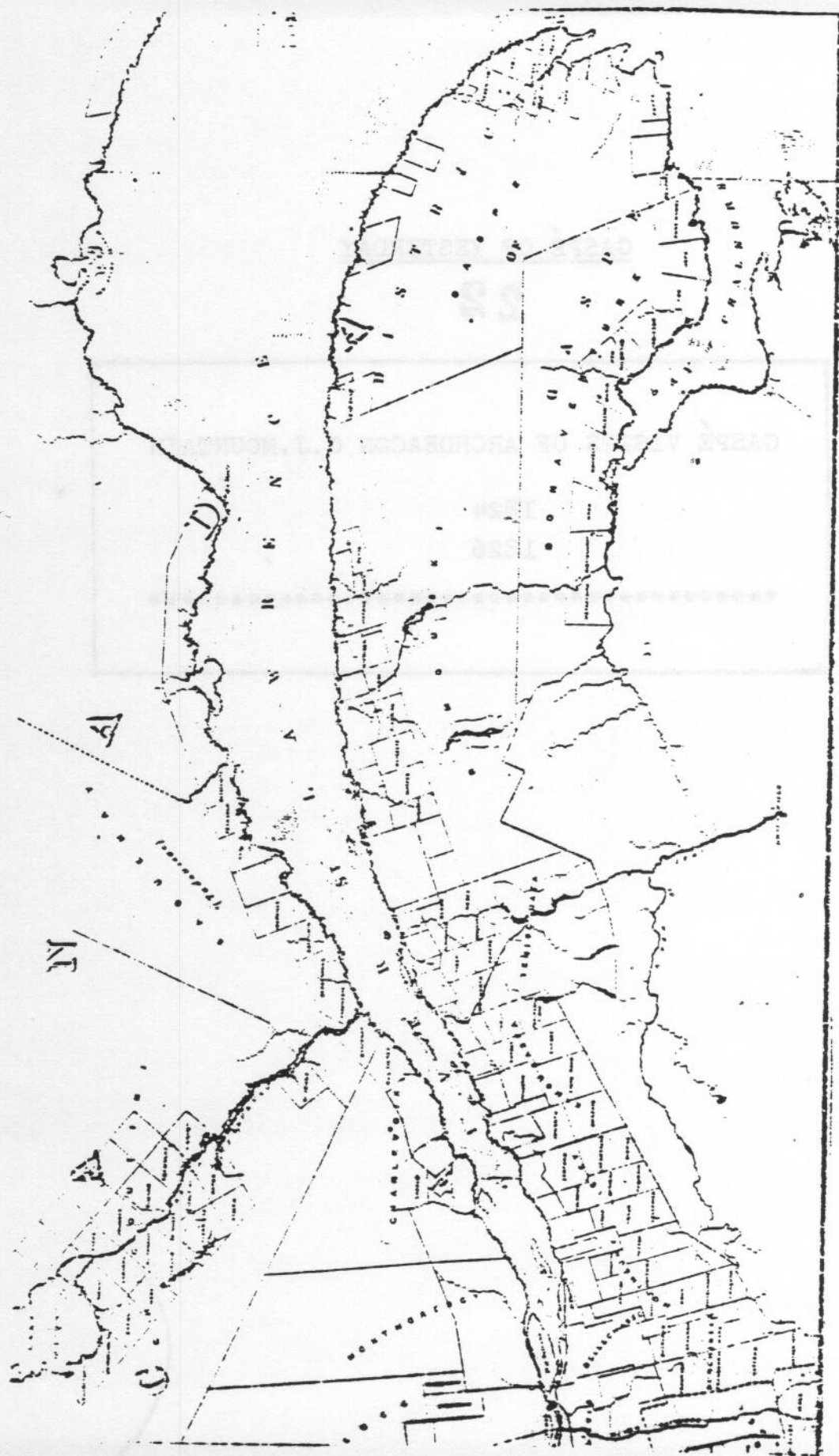
22

GASPÉ VISITS OF ARCHDEACON G.J.MOUNTAIN

1824

1826

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## A JOURNEY FROM RESTIGOUCHE TO QUEBEC IN 1824

The manuscript, which is herewith reproduced in print, forms the latter part of the private journal of a visit to the Gaspé Coast made by Dr. G.-J. Mountain, Archdeacon of Lower Canada, in the late summer of the year 1824. The journal is evidently addressed to his wife. That portion of it, now being printed, describes the last fortnight of his trip when, having completed his tour of the Gaspé mission, he was returning to Quebec. He ascended the Matapedia river by canoe, walked through the woods to the St. Lawrence and made his way from Metis to the city by boat and calèche.

The journal gives the reader an intimate picture of the author's experiences. It records the careful observations made by him of the fauna and flora seen during the journey, of the customs and dialects spoken by the Micmac Indians and others who he met and of the topography of the wild district through which he passed.

The first portion of the manuscript, which evidently described the trip down the St. Lawrence to Gaspé, is missing. It was begun on board the schooner *Two Brothers* opposite Bay St. Paul on the River St. Lawrence. The date was the 20th August 1824 and three days later the entrance to Gaspé Bay was reached. He landed at St. George's Cove on the 24th of August where he found a little Protestant Chapel with a burying-ground around it. Meeting many former residents of the Channel Islands who resided in this Cove, he preached to them, at their own request, in the French language. He then went up the Bay to Gaspé Basin and met the Rev. John Suddard, one of the two missionaries stationed on the Coast at the time. Setting off in an open boat with this missionary, he visited the settlements along the coast. Each of them took their turn at rowing and steering the small boat that carried them from harbour to harbour. In this way such places as Mal Bay, Percé, L'Anse à Beau-Fils were visited. At New Carlisle and at Paspébiac where the Rev. Richard Knagg the second missionary was stationed, churches were in course of erection. They then proceed to New Richmond and other places on both sides of the Bay of Chaleurs before the Archdeacon set off on his return trip to Quebec by way of the Matapedia river. The manuscript, herewith reproduced, describes this trip. It first of all gives an account of the three last days spent in visiting the

few English-speaking families who lived on the shore of Restigouche Bay. Nouvelle, the first place mentioned, is situated at the mouth of this bay, which is about thirty miles in length. The trip from Nouvelle to Quebec occupied two weeks. Five weeks in all were spent on the entire trip. It was begun on August 18, 1824 and ended on September 24th. It has been briefly described in a volume entitled "A Memoir of George Jehoshaphat Mountain, D.D. late Lord Bishop of "Quebec", written by his son.

GEORGE JEHOSEPHAT MOUNTAIN was born at Norwich, Eng.<sup>d</sup> in 1789, his father being the Perpetual Curate of St. Andrew's Church of that city. He came to Quebec in 1793 with his father who was appointed first Lord Bishop of Quebec. He received his degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1810, and, returning to Quebec, was ordained two years later in the Cathedral. In 1814 he married Mary Hume Thomson whose father was Deputy Commissary-General. He then went to Fredericton where he served as Rector of the Parish Church until the year 1817 when he again returned to Quebec in order to take charge of the Cathedral congregation. Two years later he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Lambeth. In 1821 the Parish of Quebec was erected and Lower Canada made an archdeaconry by Letters Patent from the Crown. Dr. Mountain was chosen to fill the positions thus created and became both Rector of the Parish and Archdeacon of Lower Canada.

THE GASPÉ MISSION, which Dr. Mountain visited in his new capacity for the first time in the year 1824, had only been formed a short time before. For various reasons this part of the diocese of Quebec had long been neglected. Former Inhabitants of the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, who were members of the Church of England but spoke the French language, had been living on the Gaspé Coast since the year 1765. The Bishop of Nova Scotia had paid them a brief visit twenty-four years later when he was on his way to visit Quebec and Montreal. It was not till the year 1819 that a missionary was sent to them. The immediate cause of the visit paid to them by Archdeacon Mountain during the year 1824 was the receipt of letters containing complaints made by them.

THE JOURNAL took the form of a series of packets sent by mail and evidently addressed to Mrs. Mountain at "Marchmont" on the Plains of Abraham, Quebec. The portion of the journal which follows is the fifth of these packets. At the top of the first page of the manuscript this note is inserted: "Nearly the whole of this sheet was written on the journey, but brought home by myself, and as the term *Packet* does not seem applicable to this and the continuation since written from my rough notes at home, I have erased it and paged the sheets commencing from this as page I".

The first entry describes the closing days of the official part of his visit. The party, consisting of the Archdeacon, the Rev. John Suddard of Gaspé, and Mrs. Suddard, has reached the settlement of Nouvelle at the mouth of Restigouche Bay on Friday Sept. 10, 1824. Three days later the Archdeacon parted company with Mr. and Mrs. Suddard and proceeded upon his journey home by canoe.

The journal is divided into five sections as follows: —

- I — Nouvelle to the Mouth of the Matapedia River pp. 31-38.
- II — Ascent of the Matapedia from Restigouche. pp. 39-50.
- III — Lake Matapedia to Mem. pp. 59-67.
- IV — Metis: Journey by Water to Trois Pistoles. pp. 67-16
- V — Journey by Land from Trois Pistoles to Quebec. pp. 76-87.

FROM NOUVELLE TO THE MOUTH OF THE MATAPEDIA — Sept<sup>r</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup>. — Still a N.-W. wind which we, or rather Mr. Suddard & his co-advisers, for I was passive in the arrangement, — did not choose to encounter. We were sufficiently secure of spending Sunday (12<sup>th</sup>) at Ristigouche. — The clearness of the day discovered to me that I had been mistaken in supposing the opposite shore to be uninhabited — I could discern openings made by man in the wilderness of wood. — I used up all my paper on the forenoon of this day, in writing a long letter of advice to Mr. Knagg\*, of which also I preserved a rough copy to be shewn to my father & entered in the letter-book.

At page 30 of which, if you have any desire you may find it.

During our stay here we always read the Scriptures & had prayers with the family, morning & evening — & a large portion of the Evening was spent in psalm-singing accompanied by Mr. McArthur's flute. — Mr. S. & Mr. McA. acted as teachers to the young ladies — I joined in, whenever I knew the tune. I have mentioned to you that Mrs. Stewart is a good, kind, religious woman — & so she is — yet I felt in her house, altho' I went along with her as far as I could, that painful sort of reserve upon religious subjects w<sup>ch</sup>. proceeds from knowing that you are in company with persons strongly imbued with opinions which you cannot embrace or approve, & the rejection of which it chills you to consider that they regard as the want of all real & vital religion. As I never engage in religious arguments unless where space is given & prospect afforded of convincing those with whom I may differ. I did not, especially being in Mrs. Stewart's own house, obtrude my sentiments upon her, but I felt it hard to be in a zealous Protestant household, the only one of that Faith in the neighbourhood, who pass years sometimes without seeing a Prot. clergyman, & yet to have the door shut, as it were, against a free intercommunion of religious sentiments, & to be conscious, whether they discovered it not, that I was not of what they considered the *right sort*. The house was scattered over with books in which the peculiarities of a party are made in fact essential to salvation. The declarations of Scripture are appealed to by these writers — but how? — Because the terms describing that process in the spiritual man which the Scripture requires, convey nothing to *their minds but their own habitual notions* of that process, they invest these notions with all the triumph of authority from the Word of God — altho' they are notions, in the mean time, which involve, for the most part, something much too gross, too palpable, too near to sense & outward observation, to be accurately described by the comparison of the Saviour in his interview with Nicodemus. I drew comfort, however, from being able to say, tho' at an humble distance indeed from the Apostle, that I know whom I have believed, & I turned my thoughts *homeward* & to other points to rest them upon many dear & valued friends, whose hearts & lives are the hearts & lives of Christians; whose tempers, whose manners, whose conduct in life, & whose good works, all carry with them, without noise or display, the marks of the living principle within.

\* The Rev. Richard Knagg was the other missionary stationed on the Coast at this time. He was soon afterwards recalled by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, of London, which had sent both him and Mr. Suddard to the Gaspe Mission upon the recommendation of the Bishop.

To me therefore our sojourn at Nouvelle was no particular subject of felicitation. Mr. S., a respectable sort of man, & I believe a most indulgent & fatherly Seigneur (for this particular place is a Seigneurie) appears to be prematurely infirm from having gone thro' some hardship & much change of climate, & in some degree impaired in memory & languid in the exercise of his understanding. — The young people who have all been born & brought up upon the spot, are scarcely a step above the farmers & fishermen of the country. There was a maiden Aunt upon whom, as she made no remark of any kind, or certainly none beyond the discovery of it's being a fine day, during the three which we spent there, I have on my part no remark to make. The habits of the whole family are degenerated in that kind of way which is seen almost uniformly among those who root themselves & rear the young plants which spring from them, in the wilderness: & tho' they are all drudges themselves, my infirmity which you know, had it's full trial to sustain from the want of an habitual care *ne turpe toral ne sordida mappa, Corruget nares* \*, (I refer you again to the Sphinx) with other points of the same kind.

As it fell calm at night we had decided to go up with the tide between 11 & 12 o'clock, & I laid down to take a couple of hours sleep first — but Mr. Suddard was persuaded to trust to the prospect of a change of wind in the morning, & we remained at Nouvelle.

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. — Again a N. W. wind — but it was necessary to form our way now — & soon after the tide served we effected this by some times hauling (sic) close to the wind, & keeping 4 oars smartly going at the same time — sometimes tacking — & at length fairly pulling without being lightened by any sail. At the distance of about a league from Mr. Stewart's, at Point Maguasha we came within the jaws of the River Ristigouche, or as it is sometimes called in this part, the Bay of Ristigouche, as interposed between the River & the Bay of Chaleurs. — Whether River or Bay, it is extremely beautiful — being irregularly enclosed by wooded lands broken into a great variety of height, form, distance, direction & projection. Just before night-fall, the tide having converted it's favor into opposition, & the current being particularly strong for the remainder of our way, — the wind also still continuing our enemy, — we threw out the grappin & made our arrangements to pass the night in the boat, at the distance of about 20 m. from Mr. Stewart's & not more than 5 from the house at which we were to be quartered at Ristigouche. Upon this occasion I had my bed unpacked for the first time. Mr. McArthur & William slept upon that of the latter in the cauddy — in front of which under canopy or a sail. Mr. Suddard & myself stretched ourselves upon mine. If you wish to know the minutiae of my arrangements I took off my boots, — put a blanket round my feet — & threw my cloak over me, to which in the night I added my counterpane from under my head. — I felt it rather cold — but I was on duty, & I was a long, long way from the "perils of waters", & the "night & day in the deep" of the Apostle. — Mr. S. & Mr. McA. fortified themselves for the night by an attack upon our ample stock of provisions to which a fresh addition had been received at Nouvelle in the person of a huge joint of cold mutton.

This place is called the Battery, from the remains of the lowermost of three batteries thrown up by the crews of 3 French frigates which were chased into this river by an English squadron, in 1758. Finding themselves hard pressed, they blew up their ships, the remains of which as well as shot, spiked cannon &c. are still to be seen; & the Officers went thro' the woods to Quebec (which was destined to fall the next year) while the crews & a great number of Acadians from below who had come on board upon the approach of the enemy, dispersed themselves to winter about the coast, & some of them as far as I could learn became settlers.

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) — A little before 4 the grappin was drawn up, & at 4 precisely I took my seat at the bow oar, under the pure lamp of night which hung in the arch of the firmament, & I believe, averted a cold of the approach of which I had felt some symptoms, by the glow which the exercise diffused thro' my system. Before 6 we arrived at the house of Mr. Mann\* — one of those comfortless looking dwellings in which the more newly settled parts of America abound. The house as was discoverable at one end only, had once been painted red — it stood without enclosure next the river, surrounded by barns & out buildings of the same hue of weather-beaten wood, and of a make-shift & unfinished appearance tho' old & out of repair. After I had taken a farewell embrace of the salt-water, we got a comfortable breakfast enough, & Mr. M. sent round notice of service to be held at two o'clock. The Church, for there is a building which bears that name & is appropriated to the service of the Church of England tho' it was now upwards of 3 years since any Clergyman had been in it, & before that time no pastoral visit had ever been paid to the Protestant Inhabit. (except I believe one previous visit of Mr. Suddard's within the four years during which he has resided in the District.) since a well-remembered journey, I do not know how long ago, of your acquaintance Mr. Gray, who after being once driven back to some place along the coast came thence on again, in a crank old boat & arrived in miserable plight but in good heart, & gave great satisfaction to the people. — the church there, is a mile or two from Mr. Mann's house on the N. Brunswick side & consequently in the Province of N. Scotia. At the appointed hour we walked to the Mission Point — a sandy projection with some old spiked guns upon it, so called from it's proximity to the Indian village & Church — the former consisting of scattered habitations partitioned into cabins with chimneys however & windows; partly wig-wams with a little patch of rough garden annexed to each — the latter a wooden edifice which the Indians built wholly at their own expense, with a cupola & bell. One of these Indians is a Merchant, who buys up fish &c from the others & makes shipments for Quebec, it is said to the value of 2000 a year. His credit is good, & he keeps his accounts in some kind of Indian hieroglyphics. Mr. Mann & his whole family except Mr. M. speak the Micmac language with fluency — his daughters however are allowed to excel both father & brother in this accomplishment. Mr. M. himself is a decent kind of a man so the Col. Johnson of the 65<sup>th</sup> in person that I once spoke to him as Col. J. in the streets of Quebec; he is brother to the Sheriff of the District & had another brother who was a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Quebec.

\* The present township of Mann near Nouvelle was so named in memory of Edward Isaac Mann a Massachusetts Loyalist who held vast grants of land in this district. (Along Quebec River)

but was himself after his father came to establish himself, as a loyalist refugee, in the Bay of Chaleurs, owner & Master of a trading-vessel to the W. Indies &c &c. & no man living perhaps had been more conversant with the ruder scenes of life: In the woods he is a perfect Indian hunter & "to take to him is time or tide December's snow or July's pride": Upon the rivers which intersect the mountain & forest, put him down in his birch canoe & he is as much at home as in arm-chair by the chimney corner. At the same time he is more attentive to the decencies of outward appearance, & if you will not laugh at his being so particular, load a cleaner & smoother-looking fist than almost anybody who has lived equally long in the District. He is amply stored with narratives "of moving accidents by flood & field", & uses expressions now & then which are rather amusing & out of the common way. "Sir", said he, in speaking to me of the late Judge Crawford. — "Sir, I suppose that he was the greatest collection of oddities that ever were under one hat". His wife & daughters are in all respects of a very homely stamp, but they seem kind, & well-disposed people.

But we are on the way to Church & have wandered very wide from our path. You will remember that I am writing some time afterwards. From the *Mission Point* there, we pulled across a beautiful basin enclosed by wooded heights, one of which, standing detached, is a conspicuous feature in all the views in this neighbourhood, & in several of them, presents a conical form. This basin is full of stakes for the salmon-nets which almost meet in the middle of the water, & when covered by the tide are frightfully dangerous to any boat of which the steersman is not accurately acquainted with the topography of the spot. As soon as I stepped out of the boat, I was once more, after a separation of 7 years, in N. Brunswick, where we spent the three first of our married life in peace & comfort, & where our dear little girls were born. Let them not disdain their native soil — nor their parents forget the reasons which they have to regard that old nest with kindly feelings, which if it was rather lower down in the tree was perhaps the more sheltered from the cares & contests of the world. We dined at a large house belonging to a Mr. Ferguson a Merchant of the Bay, from which we had a short walk to the Church, a building without any other exterior indication of it's purpose than it's site in a burying ground. I was glad however to see it well furnished with prayer-books within, & to learn that a connection had been regularly formed here with the Socy. for promot<sup>g</sup>. Christ<sup>n</sup>. knowledge at Halifax. A Congregation of from 50 to 100 persons was assembled, who seemed sensible of the blessing of a pastoral visit: & 3 children were baptized. Three more were baptized in the Evening at Mr. Mann's.

ASCENT OF THE MARAPELIA FROM RISTIGOUCHE IN A CANOE — Sept<sup>r</sup>. 13<sup>th</sup>. — I had now decided to return thro' the woods; & here therefore, after breakfast, I parted with Mr. Suddard who had furnished me with conveyance & company round the entire coast of the District, & whose acquaintance with persons & places had been of eminent use to me. Before we parted, however, we inscribed the names of all the Sponsors at the baptisms of the day before, in different copies of a Tract which I had brought with me entitled "A Serious address to Godfathers & Godmothers, &c." — & left them to be distributed by Mr. Mann's family, in order both to censure, as it were, the advice & instruction which we had orally given to the immediate parties, & to circulate information upon a subject which the people very little understood. The separation of my baggage, of which I sent back a large portion by Mr. Suddard to be forwarded from Passapeiac, — the bargaining with the Indians who were to take me up, & who made difficulties without end, first in their agreement with me, & next in the division with each other, (one being entitled to the larger share as owner of the canoe,) the preparation of my additional provision, among which was a bottle of milk boiled with white sugar by which means it would keep sweet for a long time, — all these arrangements ran away with our morning, & our morning went without leaving us any tide. The family, therefore, as is usual upon such occasions, insisted upon my taking an early dinner which was to be certainly upon the table at such an hour, & I might fully depend upon it, but of which, when that hour came, not even the symptoms of spreading the cloth or setting the chairs had made their appearance: & I thought myself lucky to get off, which I was determined at any rate to do, at a little after 4 o'clock instead of 2. It is, however, by snatching the opportunity of such delays that I am enabled, — if this be any advantage, — to keep this prosing journal. My two Indians were to take me thro' to Metisse, a distance of about 100 miles, of which the last quarter forms the Portage. This, as it regards the Portage is probably correct but the ascent of the River & Lake from the time which it occupied must be more than 75 miles. For \$6..10.0, & a couple of bottles of rum, which I am sorry to say, were to be had for 2, 6 more. One of them whose name was Jean Baptiste was a brisk good-humoured, honest but resolute looking fellow — the other François had a sallow, underjawed visage with a very short chin, & a shy backward countenance &

& complexion, but their long & neglected black hair at the sides & back of their heads, — their cloth leggings, & their buttonless coats. They were unprovided with any gun wherewith to strengthen our stock of provender by the way, but they had a day-spear for salmon & a night-spear too small for fish of that size but calculated for eel & trout. The day-spear is lanced out to a distance — the night-spear is sent directly downward where the torch betrays the fish. Neither of these however were used on our way. We stopped at the Indian village for different things which they had forgotten, & Mr. Mann. (who brought a canoe, into which we put William & the baggage, that he might himself accompany me a little way & camp out with me the first night), took the opportunity to get a sort of sheet of birch bark with a slight bar of wood at each end, under which I could stretch myself along the bottom of the canoe, in case of showers.

Ascending the basin which we had crossed to go to Church the day before, we took an outlet at one corner & found ourselves passing thro' a swarm of little islands among which the river rambles as it were at large. Yet between the islands you see a limit set to it's ramble by a range of richly wooded mountains rising directly out of the water. The islands themselves, which are said to be about a hundred in number are covered, for the most part with trees of a full & soft foliage,

& the shrubs which fringe their edges sometimes meet over the narrow channels which divide them. The river is in some places shallow & the waters were now low — in others it is very deep, & in all it is most beautifully clear. Upon one of these islands about 6 or 7 miles only from Mr. Mann's house, which afforded convenience for our fire by an accumulation of dead trees brought down the stream with the thaw of Spring (when most of the islands are under water), & was also furnished an ample supply of brakes for our beds, — we made our camp for the night.

Now the manner of camping out is this. The halt is made for the night while sufficient daylight remains for the preparatory arrangements, which indeed are effected with surprising quickness. A snug spot having been selected, the space immediately surrounding it is ransacked for the night's provision of fuel. Dead & fallen trees are dragged to the spot, or, (which must always be the case in winter) the driest which are at hand among the standing trees are felled. Some of the party are perhaps engaged in this task, while the others are making the beds which are formed of fern or more commonly of young sapin branches, strewed upon the ground in sufficient thickness to be soft. If there is birch bark at hand, a screen, lower or higher as the weather may demand, is fixed with stakes, behind the sylvan pillow. Altho' the received term for camping out is "faire la cubane" there is no covering over head, even in winter, except in case of continued bad weather, when a wig-wam is constructed. The fire is at your feet, & is made, of course, larger & nearer to you in proportion to the degree of cold. The Pot or kettle or both having been previously set on to boil by means of an apparatus of stakes & forked sticks, you now prepare, stretched at ease upon your couch before the fire, for the business of supper. The Indians do everything of this kind for you as well as for themselves. They boil their own mess of potatoes & fish, or peas & pease or whatever it may be, & they cook for you whatever you are provided with. They broil fresh fish, slices of ham &c &c by putting them in a slit stick bent down over the fire, if you want any extra light they make a candle in a moment with a twisted piece of birch bark, & if you desire to have it fixed it is set in a split stick planted in the ground: but it requires frequent snuffing. So if you are short at any time of a cup for drinking, or a vessel for baling the canoe, the want is supplied in halt a moment by a kind of bowl or scuttle of bark which if held properly, so as to keep it tight, in the hand, retains the water even without being stitched. I sometimes ate off a piece of bark for my plate, & sometimes off the flat end of a paddle.

Every second or third night the Indians bake their bread or rather thick flat cake, in the earth. As soon as it is well heated, they rake it out with a stick, lay their cake, which has been prepared in a bark kneading-trough, upon it, — cover this again with earth, & then cover the whole with hot embers. It is just the same sort of thing which I have seen the country-people bake upon the earth.

I went apart for a short time by the rivers edge, before committing myself to rest. It was a still moonlight night — the mountains which enclosed us seemed to sleep in huge repose, while the rapids murmured on at their feet — & at a short distance within the wood the fire of our party flung it's light upon the tall trunks of the trees which were to canopy our heads — With a flannel dressing gown over my light stuff travelling-dress — a great coat, wrapped round my feet — a scout cloak partly under & partly drawn round me — a silk basukrochief tied over



my night-cap, & my boots & neckcloth taken off, I passed the whole night comfortably enough without feeling any want of bedding, & without getting very near the fire till towards morning. Mr. Mann warned me against sleeping in boots or shoes, by which he said that inexperienced travellers often got their feet burnt, from the time which is necessary to get them off after the heat is painfully felt. It is his own practice to sleep perfectly bare-footed even in winter.

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. — Before sun-rise I took a plunge in the river which with putting on my clothes after it made my toilet for the day. As soon as I had dressed, we proceeded, according to the usual practice in canoe-travelling, to make a long stage before a late breakfast which forms one of two meals taken in the day, — the second being your supper. We passed an island distinguished by the name of the *large island* & entirely covered with beautiful sugar-maples, which is part of the patrimony reserved to the Indians. They have sometimes been surprised here in their sugar-making in the month of March by the rushing descent of the ice & the flood which accompanies it; & those who have been unable to escape in canoes, have been obliged to take to the trees where they have stuck like the fish in Horace's not very dignified description of the deluge, *Piscium & summa genus haesit ulmo*, till the subsiding of the waters. I asked the Indians whether their forefathers, while yet unacquainted with Europeans, were supposed to have made sugar — this they said they did not know, but as there remained a tradition of the use of *stone* cauldrons they supposed they might have been employed for this purpose as well as others. Many of the trees on this river bear marks of the rough embraces of the icy phalanx, at a surprising height above the common level of the stream. Mr. Mann told me that in the winter the hawks always eat their prey upon the ice in the middle of the stream where they can command a view of all that may approach them, which he attributed to their fear of interruption, if they devoured it upon the trees, from animals I think he said of the weasel tribe, who have a fancy for sharing the spoil. But I cannot imagine that such an animal would encounter the talons of a hawk.

We met an Indian family in a canoe of whom I bought some eels & blue-berries. The latter are remarkably large at a particular spot upon the Matapedia River, & the Squaws go up in parties as much as 80 miles to gather them for sale in the Settlements below. The quantity of Salmon in the Ristigouche river is prodigious & almost incredible; Mr. Mann shewed me a spot where he took 3,000 in two nights within a space which he swept by means of six nets sewed together — but others have taken a far larger number.

I believe it was about a league above the place where we had slept that I stopped at the cabin of an English Settler — yet tho' English, a most unsavoury receptacle of a most dirty & self-neglecting family, — to baptize two infants: & perhaps a league farther on, just at the entrance of the Matapedia, we went ashore to breakfast upon a space of what is called *intervale* land, richly covered with natural hay, of which a Yanky with the characteristic sagacity & forwardness of his country has taken possession. His log house is hard by, & with it I was to take leave of all trace of human settlement. The mountains in this part of the River, & for some way up the Matapedia are frequently of a most majestic height & rise directly out of the water seeming to the eye as steep as a wall, so that you wonder how the trees which thickly clothe their sides can find footing. It is curious however to observe the extent & frequency of accidental burnings, which indeed have given name to many places in these Provinces: — & you are aware that after this wide & total ravage of the families of the forest, the growth which succeeds is always of a different race from that which occupied the soil before. A tract covered with young poplar & white birch indicates of itself the scene of past destruction.

I have spoken of the height of the mountains — & should have thought some them from 4 to 500 feet high — Mr. Mann, however, thought from 3 to 400: but after I had parted from him we saw one which the Indian François observed me looking at, & he uttered the two words "*touzan feet*": — This was perhaps the highest that we saw. NOTE: Since I wrote this you have heard Mr. Crawford of Cascapedia say that these mountains are "*not more than 1600 feet high*". So much for the harmony of conjectural measurements by the eye among different travellers! — Upon recollection & comparison with Cape Diamond & other heights whose elevation is known, I think that I must have considerably understated their pretensions. I am too afraid of the traveller's sin.

But I am getting up the Matapedia with you faster than I have any business to do. We turned into this lesser river from the Ristigouche after our breakfast, & Mr. Mann took his leave of me, after we had mounted it for about a couple of leagues. As he had shewn me such particular attention, I judged him worthy of having my father's little bottle of special Cherry-brandy which you may remember that I had reserved for some memorable point of the journey brouched ex-

pressly to give him. I cannot say the *stirrup-cup*, but the parting draft. He made many objections to diminishing my stock of liquor which, of course, was reduced within a very portable compass, & recommended rather an attack upon his own — but when he had once tasted, he made but feeble & brief resistance to a repetition of the draft. I record this as a testimony to the excellence of the liquor.

Mr. Mann had made the Indians gather for me some wild onions or rather shallots which grow upon the banks of this River, & are perfectly fit for use. There is also found in all this part of the country a wild potatoe of a sweetish flavor, said to be extremely good, & a root at least I believe it is a root which is also eaten, called the ground-nut. The chocolate-root, from which that delectable imitation is made which you remember at the Temiscouata lake, is gathered in abundance; & there are several herbs from which the Inhabitants of the District of Gaspé are accustomed to make tea: The principle of these is a plant which grows in many parts of Canada & which I have heard called the *tea-plant* — an herb with a stiff leaf of a very dark & glossy green. I think the Canadians call it *Plante à la peigne*, & I believe it is the same with the Indian specific which our medical practitioners have adopted under the name of *Pyrola*. All the poorer orders in the District of Gaspé, & the servants in families where servants are kept, drink herb tea, sweetened with molasses — & by way of giving it an agreeable flavor, they throw in, while it is boiling sprigs of dried spruce with the cones upon them.

The Indians are very uncertain in their calculation of distance, — but against a rapid river a loaded canoe will scarcely make 30 m. a day, unless when the days are very long. It will descend the same stream perhaps at an average rate of 10 or 12 m. an hour. We accomplished I suppose, 25 m. or thereabout this day, without seeing any body (after quitting the cabin where I baptized the children) except the Indian family whom I have mentioned & two other canoes with only very young women & children in them. I was surprised, however, when the Indians put us ashore, to scramble along for a certain space on foot, to fall in with ox-tracks in the wood, & to find marks of a party of lumberers. Nearly opposite to this place, we made our camp in a very snug covert of pines & firs. We had passed two or three smaller streams which fall into the Matapédia. This River itself is almost uniformly rapid & very generally shallow — but it is not one of those

shallow rivers to whose falls  
Melodious birds sing madrigals

for you do not hear a chirp, & you see nothing on the wing but a few sheldrakes: The tenants of these woods & waters are chiefly those which in some way form a prize, & they soon learn that it is not prudent to be obtrusive. The whole shores, however, & neighbouring tract of country about Ristigouche did, at one time, in a manner teem with life — for besides the incredible numbers of salmon, eel & trout, there were of feathered fowl, vast quantities of different kinds of duck, — teal, outards, barnacle geese, herons & partridges, — & of four-footed beasts, — moose or original caribou (which is the Rein-deer) — hare — siffleur or ground hog & called in Bewick the Quebec Marmot, porcupine — beaver — otter — mink — martin — loup-cervier — bear & carcajou all in abundance. Some of these are exterminated & others driven deeper into the interior of the woods.

I joined conversation over the fire with my conductors & thought that after all, we did not live in bad times when I found myself in the power of Romantics & Savages who were neither disposed to burn me as a Heretic, nor to scalp me as a white. On their side the conversation was almost entirely sustained by my brisk little friend Jean Baptiste. His pronunciation of French was peculiar in some instances, & he always substituted some other sound for that of L & of CH, tho' both these, as pronounced in French, occur in his own language but perhaps not in the same combination of sounds. In a Rom. Cathol. book of devotion which I have since seen, I believe in the Huron tongue, I observe that Olivier is Oribier: Raphael, Rapax & c. Fabien is Pabien. Thus he called les Anglais, les Angrais, & for j'ai entendu parler he said j'ai entendu parner — for à la chasse, à la sasse & c. for sable, savre but one of the most curious specimens of his French was his manner of making the inflections of the verb voir, of which if he had been made to go thro' the present tense indicative, it would have been je vois, tu vois-tu, il voit-tu, nous vois-tu, vous vois-tu, ils voit-tu. He spoke it however, as I have said very readily: — & all the Indian languages, so far as I have had an opportunity of observing, are more susceptible of French than of English orthography. Thus for example the Algonquians who took my father up L. Ontario in 1813, used to call the interloper what is very easily written in French as Quiconce, signifying a Fish. — but what, (under the correction of Mr. Hamilton,) it is impossible to give the sound of, in writing, in our language. The only words which I remember of the language of my friends the Mic-macs are as follow. Charaoni, or if we endeavor to write it according to English pronunciation Shariawer. Salt: — Aptatz, little: Mlakee, great: — Pos-pem, a lake: — Maguaw or maquaw, No. — This is constantly used

interrogatively, as *Maguaw?* — i.e. Do you not? Is it not? &c — *Tamia*, where is it? — this by the way is a Greek word, & I also observed a Latin word, *alga*, — & an English, *water*, or perhaps rather *wantah*, of which I do not remember the signification. Some of their words are very harmonious — among these I noticed *oeliano* which seems to partake both of Greek & Italian.

The Indians in general have the character of being rigid observers of the *Nil admirari*, but this was certainly not the case with my companions; they expressed the strongest curiosity about the most trifling things in the world, & were quite lively in their admiration of a corkscrew — a contrivance which they had never before seen. "Ah! mais que c'est drôle!". They asked me many questions about the Indian tribes in the higher parts of the country, some of whom they had heard were "*de bons gens comme nous*", & others reprobates "*qui ne croient pas au bon Dieu*". I asked them whether they would not desire the advantages of education the most obvious of which I pointed out & they heartily acquiesced; but tho' I encouraged them, as far as occasion could be taken in every moral & religious feeling of a correct nature, I did not think it my business to endeavour to wean them from any of the errors of the Church of Rome. The only effect of such an endeavour would have been to alienate them still farther from a Religion whose professors interfered with the sacredness of their own. I made it my object to give the conversation such a turn & to observe such a deportment as might tend in some degree to conciliate their goodwill to Protestantism, & thus at least I might be instrumental in improving their charity. I knew there are some zealous Protestants who would think me wrong. And I should think *them* so.

These Indians were very regular in their morning & evening devotions tho' it must be confessed that they were discharged, to all appearance, in a very mechanical manner. They manifested in this duty the same unconcern at the presence of witnesses which is generally observable among the Romanists.

It is not very unusual among any people, for one party in a dialogue to repeat the words, or the concluding words, of the sentence just spoken by the other in a tone which conveys to the first party the satisfaction of knowing that the effect which he intended has been produced. But the frequency with which the Indians do this in their conversation with each other is altogether remarkable.

Sept<sup>r</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup>. — I took my early plunge again in the river, — the Indians having pitched, over night, purposely for my accommodation in the vicinity of a deep hole close to the shore. I sometimes took the opportunity when we stopped to breakfast, to have recourse to my dressing case for the regular operations of the toilet while William was succeeding me in those of the spoon or knife & fork, but this was just as circumstances happened to favor me. A propos of this subject, Mr. Mann had told me that it was a mistake to suppose that the Indians pluck up their beards by the roots: & had informed me that it was one of the characteristic distinctions of the race to be almost beardless by nature; & this account was confirmed by my guides who had neither of them even had occasion to shave tho' they were fathers of families, & who assured me that such was the usual case of their people. They stated, however, that there were exceptions, & Jean Baptiste instanced his own father as one: *Mon defunt père*. (whom, by the way, he was so fond of quoting with this introduction that he brought to my mind the story in *Les Veillées du Château*, of "*Feu M. Caradon mon père*".) — *Mon defunt père se faisait la barbe*

— *oui, tous les samedis faisait la barbe* — tous les samedis. They did not seem to have the smallest degree of that anxiety to *make out the case* of having a beard as a mark of manhood, which is observed sometimes in civilized life — & which was ridiculed happily enough by a Quebec Barber who having been sent for by a youngster for the performance of his office, set to work to lather his face most profusely, & then went to loiter out of the open window & to amuse himself with whistling as he looked up & down the street. *Que faites vous donc là? sava* the youth in a tone of angry expostulation when his patience began to be out; — *Monsieur*, said the barber in a composed manner, *j'attends que la barbe pousse*.

We had not proceeded far when, to my great surprise we fell in with a small party of whites — (one of whom, however, was a *black* & I protest sincerely that I did not choose the term by which I have described the others with any thought of this circumstance at the moment.) — being the lumberers whose traces we had seen the night before. As I had a very short allowance of bread & biscuit, I asked them for some flour & they gave me about 8 lb. for which I gave them money, but they returned it, unobserved by me, to the Indians, who faithfully informed me afterwards of their having received it. These people were just going home, having spent the summer upon their task. I asked them how they distinguished the Sunday in the woods, & found that it was simply & solely by abstinence from work. I gave them a couple of tracts which I had with me, & we parted each to go his own way.

abruptly or broken & softly receding from the eye — you found yourself still enclosed longitudinally by an unseemly sort of wood overhanging the water, chiefly consisting of cedar, rusty & ragged with a peculiar kind of lichen & having many dead branches, intermixed with tall erect poles of shabby pine or fir, whose great height, however, & perfect straightness, in some places, with mere tufts of branches at the top, agreeably relieved the eye by the variety of their effect. I began to imagine comparisons for these wearisome & endless cedars — they presented, in the first place, with the branches all on the downward side, a rude resemblance of a comb with a regular curve in the back: again, stretching, as they did, right over the water from the root, with the branches just meeting the surface, they seemed like persons just in the attitude of springing off to bathe & stooping closer & yet closer to the water yet wanting the last flush of courage for the plunge: Or you might fancy when you marked how soon they must fall & saw the others behind them which each in their turn would come into their place & bent over towards the stream in proportion as they were near it, — that the foremost were urged & driven & trod upon, as it were, by an alarmed & pursued crowd in the rear: — Or, varying again the application, you might moralize upon the changes of the world, & behold a picture of generation after generation succeeding each to the place of the other, only to drop off in their turn. But where shall I stop if I drag you thro' all the wanderings of imagination which served to relieve the tedium of sitting the live-long day in the canoe? — I read indeed as much as I could — but I could not fix myself all day to this occupation. I had the Bible in one pocket & Cicero in the other, & I believe I may venture to say that neither one nor the other ever travelled into these wilds before.

We often passed close under these cedars & were obliged to stop to save our hats & heads. In some few places a steep bank of bare earth rose from the water but of no considerable height.

There is an optical deception, for which I am not skilled to account upon philosophical principles, which I have frequently found to occur upon the St. Lawrence in N. Canada, & which happened to me here to day. As far as you can see, up the river, from different points, as you ascend, it appears as if you were going downhill by a regular but very considerable descent, — & the deception is so strong, that the continued recourse of the mind to the fact of the case, will not rectify the appearance: it is almost by an effort that the judgment is convinced. The appearance was the same to William as to myself.

We passed some Indian Otter-traps set in the paths worn by these animals near the small riverlets which they haunt. In one of the traps a large Otter was taken & in another an unfortunate dog who must, according to appearance, have been skulking home from a hunting & fishing party which had been for sometime encamped in the woods above — (tho' why he was more unfortunate than the poor Otter I am not quite prepared to say.) — His fate appeared in the light of something amusing & funny to the Indians, according to the usual effect of such incidents upon uncultivated minds. They took out the Otter but reserved him for the proper Owner of the trap: & I accordingly had his company for the remainder of the day & part of the next with which I should not have been sorry to have dispensed.

We stopped for the night close to a little piece of stony beach which had been used by some of the Indians as a place for drying & smoking salmon, as was apparent from some remains of their apparatus.

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. — We soon entered into still water, indicating the proximity of the Little lake, which in a map which I saw at Ristigouche drawn by a son of our Surveyor General is laid down as the *Obstetch quas quam* Lake. A fair specimen of the accuracy with which Indian names are given in books & maps. The fact is that the Lake has no particular name: it is called the Little lake which in the Micmac tongue is *aptai pos-pem*, & out of this designation had been manufactured the name of *Obstetch quas quam* Lake, tho' what has been made into *quas quam* is the word itself (*pos-pem*) which signifies *Lake*; & *niskee pos-pem* is the great Lake.

About 10 o'clock at a Point, at the head of this Lake, we went ashore to pay our respects at a hunting encampment. The canoe of a Chief & four others were lying upon the beach, & within the wood were as many bark cabins occupied by the females of the party, the males having gone back three days before into the interior of the forest, — & absolutely swarming with filthy children. Not a soul of them all could speak either English or French. Here we exchanged some of our provisions for smoked salmon, split open & crimped, which we found very good.

The distance from one lake to the other is perhaps between two & three leagues, & the scene here improves. The river, which is often rapid, winds very much, & is also wider — there are rocks, or masses of stone, of rather a picturesque aspect, occasionally scattered along it's edge — the margin is sometimes decorated by a full & rounded fringe of shrubs, & the trees on the land are in good part of hard-wood, exhibiting in particular some very handsome specimens of white birch.

After passing thro' a sort of vestibule ornamented with wooded islands, behind which we caught a view of high swelling lands not unlike the mountains near Quebec, we entered the Great lake by a passage in a most improbable corner where everything seemed shut up, & which the Indians tell you that the first explorers had great difficulty in discovering. The Lake is a handsome sheet of water, about 5 leagues long, & 1½ across at it's widest part. The lands which encircle it are gradual eminences which do not rise to any extraordinary height. The Lake abounds with loons. It was dark when we reached the head of it, which forms the termination of the water travelling, & it was by mere guess that we hit the point where the Indian Portage commences. Here then we made our preparations for the night under some huge cedars slanting across each other. The wind which had become easterly, rose high during the night, singing loud among the pine-tops & urging upon the stony beach the waters of the lake.

WALK THRO' THE WOODS, BY THE INDIAN PORTAGE FROM THE HEAD OF LAKE MATAPEDIA TO METIS ON THE SHORES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE — Sept. 17. — We rose & prepared all things for our march thro' the wood. Our baggage was still farther lightened, & whatever could be spared was left either to become the prize of the Indians upon their return, or, if of sufficient value to make it worth-while, to be delivered by them to Mr. Mann & by him forwarded to Quebec. These fellows will make no sort of difficulty in saddling themselves with between 50 & 60 wt. to scramble thro' a mountain wood-path. My portmanteau put into a coarse sack was imposed upon the shoulders of François, who first padded himself with my cloak & great coat. The provisions of the party & what few utensils we had, with other odd things were made into a package in some kind of rug or blanket by Jean Baptiste, & pinned by a stick cut to a sharp point. They strap on their load by long strips of cedar bark which is remarkably strong. When I was afterwards travelling in calèches, some of the people who were tying on my portmanteau affecting to remark upon it's weight, I told them that an Indian had carried it cheerfully on his back thro' the woods. Oh!, said one of the fellows, these scoundrels of Indians, (the expression was much worse in the original) sont à l'épreuve de tout.

As the Indians had said a great deal about proper precautions & preparations for the march, & as the weather, during the height of the sun each day, had been still rather hot as we ascended the river, I determined to equip myself in the lightest possible marching order, & I discarded both neckcloth & waist-coat, leaving only my stuff jacket over my shirt, & put on a pair of slight shoes. They had counselled me, before leaving Ristigouche, to avoid walking in boots which were apt, they said to produce that fatigue & pain in the instep & ankle, called even upon a Summer-march, *mal de raquettes*; & they suggested my providing myself with their moose-skin *maucasins*, but when I reminded them that the soles of my feet were perhaps not quite so hard as theirs & might take offence, in such protection, at the encounter which might be expected of stones or stumps, they acquiesced in the preference which I gave to shoes. But the fact is that the distance which we had to walk & the portion of it which we performed in each day were such as to make it ridiculous to talk of any extraordinary precautions, especially as the east wind had made the weather quite cool.

We took a light breakfast before starting & did not get off till near 8 o'clock. It is hardly worth-while to record a piece of nonsense which it came into my head to utter as a farewell to the Matapedia waters before we turned our backs upon them — "Adieu M. Matapedia, je suis charmé d'avoir fait votre connaissance, & puisque vous descendez là bas, je vous prie de bien porter des compliments de ma part, à M. votre frère Cascapédia, & M. votre cousin, (puisqu'il est un peu plus éloigné.) Paspédia:" But it gives me an opportunity of observing that while the British population have, in the word Paspédia, made the two last syllables into *pediac*, changing the d into b, & pronouncing the final syllable as in Cogniac, they have in the two other instances made of the very same termination, the elegant sound of *pejau*, — *Cascapediau* (as I have before mentioned) & *Matapejau*. The final syllable, as the Indians pronounce it, has an extremely slight & fine guttural sound, approaching to the Irish *ch* with a vowel prefixed, & this is what has been improved, by several slides, into *ac* in *Paspébac*. They told me that they knew only of these three places which have this termination, to which they were unable to affix any particular signification, but I think there is some other on the Coast.

We had not walked far when it began to rain violently, & the water lodging in the branches which often impeded our way at every step, we soon became thoroughly drenched. The showers, however, ceased about the time when we stopped to dine, when the Indians made a good fire over which we could dry & warm ourselves. François with a silent & thoughtful civility which was very observable about him, spread my coat, which I had taken off, upon sticks before the fire, turning out the sleeves & exposing the different parts in succession to the greatest heat, as carefully as an old nurse. The remainder of the day was fine.

I suppose that we had hardly made 15 miles when we stopped for the night. The Indians rest pretty often, & they very often lose the way — not the general idea of the direction to be pursued, (for an Indian, you know has the faculty of going right from point to point for any distance thro' the wild forest) but a sort of established route which is preserved when they conduct travellers, [Mr. Crawford of the District of Gaspé, & Mr. Mann more than once — Mr. Taschereau & Mr. Christie — a Surveyor's party & a party of persons ship-wrecked off the coast below, who wintered at Gaspé, have all come thro' this way], & are themselves loaded, or when their wives & children are with them, & which is chosen as presenting less impediments to the march than a direct line thro' bog & thicket. Yet we had a good deal of both these. There is sometimes for half a quarter of a mile together a just discernible path — but more commonly no trace whatever unless here & there perhaps a branch broken by the hand, or a blazed tree, & as different parties of Indians have tried different lines of route within a short distance of each other, these marks often serve rather to bewilder than to assist you. In aid of this, the Indians, after passing once or twice, know the features of the country & distribution of the soil into it's varieties of mountain, & ridge & hollow, besides taking note of streams, small lakes & other objects. When they lose the way, they stop & tell you to sit down, themselves throwing down their loads, — & then they start off in opposite directions to explore, communicating & asking information by hollering aloud, as long as they are within hearing of each other.

The high lands were generally covered with hard timber & afforded some space for walking, tho' at other times you encountered a close & inconvenient thicket of firs. The hollows consisted of cedar swamps, & the cedars also frequently formed a thicket which required that sort of *worming & wriggling* our-

— selves along, by which Lord Chesterfield somewhere recommends it to his son to obtain the best footing in the best Society. *Our* footing here was bad enough — yet the multitude of roots, tho' they were very slippery, saved us from sinking in the bog.

We made our camp in the neighbourhood of abundance of birch bark & the night being rather cold. François made a curved screen of some height at our heads. William toasted me some cheese which I eat with crackers & mightily enjoyed. We had now nothing to drink out of, but my tin shaving pot, in which I took some warm brandy & water, & William, & the Indians afterwards took their tea — a beverage which without cream or milk I cannot relish.

Sept<sup>r</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. — All the latter half of the day preceding this, I had felt considerable inconvenience in walking, from a lameness in my left knee; & my injured leg, which indeed was fast recovering, proved by far the most serviceable fellow of the two. When I rose this morning, this lameness, — whether it was a strain which I had received, unperceived at the time in scrambling over the *embarras* of fallen trees, or a rheumatic affection proceeding from the wetness of our forenoon walk, I wot not, — but it was so much increased that I really thought I should be unable to proceed, as it was with extreme difficulty & severe pain that I put the knee in motion at all. My Indians assured me that they been aware the night before, of the degree in which I was lame they would have prepared some simples of which the application would now have afforded relief, — & as their remedies have often a marked efficacy, it is not unlikely that they would have succeeded in this instance. As it was they very judiciously concluded that if I could not go on I must stay where I was — & in that case they would still have the opportunity of exercising their unlettered pharmacy. I determined, however, to make the attempt being in the first place impatient on the homeward march, & in the second, something suspicious of the sufficiency of certain necessary ammunition to carry on a war, in the wilderness if prolonged by such an encampment: — I took therefore upon myself the duties of the medical staff. Every man, according to a proverb, — which from the frequency of it's use I must suppose to be more significant & better warranted than I confess it appears to me, — every man is, at forty, a *fool* or a *physician* — which age when I attain, I shall accordingly hope, — with such an alternative before me, — to be something of the latter, tho' I have not as yet discovered any prognostics of my becoming so, — but upon the present occasion, like Cibber who "served both for fool & for poet".

In merry old England it once was a rule  
The King had his poet & also his fool:  
But now we're so frugal, I'd have you to know it  
Poor Cibber must serve both for fool & for poet.

#### Elegant Extracts.

the learned would perhaps pronounce that I was a little of both. My idea was, to prepare as near a resemblance as I could to *opodeldoc*, & I could devise nothing better than to heat some fat of ham over the fire & rub it, together with brandy, well in to the part affected, after which I bandaged it with flannel. I certainly

think that the rubbing at least, if not the application, afforded me some degree of relief, & I managed to make a day's march of it, tho' a painful one, & at a slower rate than the day before.

While the Indians were preparing our dinner by a little brook, I bethought myself that I would wash & shave. I then expected to reach Metis that night, & I was led to consider that, with all the advantage which these operations could give to my appearance, it would still exhibit very little of the *dignitary*. There I beheld myself lame & tattered — a long staff made out of an old canoe-paddle in my hand — the scratches of my skin seen thro' the holes of my trowsers & stocking — without a neckcloth — my cloths soiled by the march thro' the woods — my shoes tied with twine, — & my trowsers confined round the ankle, to prevent their catching in the branches, with pins & strips of cedar bark. To this equipment was afterwards added at the instance of my friend François who had the promise of inheriting my trowsers, (as J. Baptiste had already done my discarded waistcoat.) & who by no means contemned the expected prize. — a coloured handkerchief round one knee to prevent the enlargement of a very serious solution of continuity to which pins had been repeatedly applied with little effect.

There is something very disappointing to the imagination in thus traversing the wild & wooded scenery of N. America. — when you know that your path is to take you over rampart within rampart of mountains, covered with boundless forest & intersected by stream & lake, you picture to yourself the long glades which open between venerable trees, the deep & solemn defiles which enclose you with their mass of waving foliage, the magnificence of prospect which you enjoy when having toiled up some long ascent, you gain a point from which you survey the swelling heads of each minor eminence & the waters which spangle between them in the golden sunshine. But alas! when you pierce into the reality of Nature, you find yourself only scrambling thro' a wood beset with underbrush & fallen trees, with little other variety than the alternation of mounting & descending — all prospect is precluded, & you experience a sensation of sameness, & of confinement from which you still keep hoping in vain to find relief. An obstructed glimpse thro' the trees at one corner of a couple of little lakes —, a small opening in the woods formed by a little wet flat savanne, covered with natural hay & skirted by alders & spruce fir, thro' one end of which runs the stream called *Tactigouche*; & a confined peep up & down the steep ravine which gives passage to the fordable river *Tactoc*. (of which name the other is a diminutive, from which I conclude that *Ristigouche* is a diminutive also — but the Indians could not help me out in this & seemed never to have noticed the sameness of termination in the two names till it was pointed out to them. The *Tactoc* discharges itself between Metis & Matan.) These were the sole spaces which in the least expanded themselves to the eye, upon our whole march. I envied my friend François who upon one occasion when it became necessary to reconnoitre & to ascertain whether we were within view of the Gulph, mounted a lofty tree, at the top of one of the mountains in the stile, as Jean Baptiste observed, of a *don matelot*, & enjoyed some such a prospect as I have described to be anticipated by the imagination. The dialogue which passed, in their own language between him, in his aerial elevation & his companion at the foot of the tree, was altogether of a ludicrous cast, & the latter seemed to chuckle, like a school-boy who admires the wit of a frolic some play-fellow, at the description given by the former, of his prospect. I asked him what it was that François was saying to him. "Il dit qu'il voit partout," said he with a sort of eager grin.

A remark made by François when I interposed for the life of a snake "me see him, me always kill him", — seemed to furnish some warrant for the idea that there is a natural & inbred antipathy in mankind to this reptile from the date when there was enmity put between the seed of the serpent & of the woman. We saw but few animals in these two days — one martin, one owl — one duck — one loon, & a couple of snipes were all, I believe, that we severally & jointly could say that we had met with. We found signs of deer having passed, & saw a large pine stripped & scratched at the base, upon which a bear had been busy in getting his meal. (This consists of a kind of white water inner coating between the bark & the

we met with so many delays in hunting for the path, & made so many deviations, that night closed upon us still in the wood — & we accordingly made our camp within about four miles of the waters of the St. Lawrence, where finding that our crackers would hardly eke out a slender supper for William & myself, I divided them with so rigid an equality as to split the odd one which remained into two halves. The Indians had no bread, & supped upon fish alone.

**METIS: & JOURNEY BY WATER TO TROIS PISTOLES** — Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. — (Sunday). In our way thro' the wood to the beach, (in the latter part of which there was a tolerably beaten wood-path.) we met with some Partridges. The old birds flew away — the young ones tho' well grown & able to have followed them, appeared stupefied, & suffered the Indians to peck them with sticks & stones while they only went from one tree or one branch to another, & sometimes sat perfectly still while half a dozen missiles struck the tree close to them, till at last two of the poor things were knocked down, & they proved afterwards a most seasonable addition to my sea-stock as you shall hear anon. the young birds, as the Indians say, n'ont pas d'esprit. At eight o'clock having passed down a considerable descent, we stood upon the beach of the St. Lawrence which is here 40 m. across. We had a couple of miles more to walk before we could reach any house. A scotch Settler occupying a log hut furnished us with a boat gaping with leaks, in which he & his son, a lad of 18 who had built it, pulled us, I believe about a league, across to the Point of Little Metis, on which Mr. McNider's fishing-establishment is situated. This lad, when the family lived at Quebec, had been put by me to the National School. The Indians got a canoe to bring our baggage.

Nothing could have fallen out more happily, — tho' it had not been in the least within my calculations. — then my arrival in this place on Sunday Morning, & I spent a most satisfactory day. I had in fact been mortified at the failure of my intention to devote this day to the Protestants at Mal Bay 50 miles below Quebec, but it happened that the School-master of that very place had come down to look at some land at Metis, & I learnt from him that I should not have collected a Congregation of half a dozen persons, & that, at the moment, there was not a single Protestant child to be baptized there.

Metis is 210 miles from Quebec which is the nearest point at which there is any Protestant Clergyman: & the Settlers have never had but one pastoral visit, which was when Mr. McNider brought down Dr. Harkness four or five years ago.

I took means to spread the notice of my arrival & to convene the Congregation for 3 o'clock P.M. — I then, (altho' to present myself with something more of decency on the Sabbath Morning to the first sight of the Settlers, I had already made some slight alterations in the equipment which I have described in the account of the day proceeding this,) — put off my vile exuviae & went thro' a refreshing process of thorough washing & changing of raiment. And by this time, for it was now eleven o'clock, — there was another kind of refreshment which was by no means unopportune. My host gave me some breakfast of the best that he had — tho' he as a person whose spontaneous motions appeared to be few & faint, but the blunt Scotchman who had brought me in his boat, used but scant respect & ceremony in dictating to the hospitality of his feudal superior, whom he addressed by the familiar compellative of Hughey, then, or Hugh McNider, — the kinsman of John McNider of Quebec, Shopkeeper, & Seigneur of Metis who has placed him in charge of the property at the latter place, — is a dull, gawky, young man: in person rawboned & awkward, but rather spare than stout, with hair & bushy eye-brows of a yellow cast: — in character seemingly guileless & rightly & kindly disposed, & in principle correct but, habitually passive, & dependent upon the line marked out for him, or the suggestions made at the moment by others: — slow of speech uncouth in utterance, chiefly following the lead given to him in conversation, & appearing to be rather relieved when, even thus, he can find anything to say, — yet, in the manner of saying it, like many other people who are deficient in their proper resources, appropriating & claiming it for his own sagacity.

I was now to part with my Indians, who solicited a written testimony of their good conduct & competency to conduct travellers by the route which we had travelled. — & this I could most conscientiously & did most willingly give. Mr. Mann had asked me, after I had engaged them at Ristigouche, whether I felt "diffident" of going with them, & upon my assuring him that no such apprehension had even entered my thoughts, had fortified me in this absence of all distrust, by an opportune history of a British Officer who was murdered by an Indian in the woods upon the River St. John. But as murders unhappily, are committed by others besides Indians, & as the case was not in point, for it was in a rencontre, & not under the guidance of the Indian, that the officer had fallen: — as, moreover, my Indians were settled proprietors at Ristigouche, & as Mr. Mann & his son never hesitated to trust themselves in the hands of the tribe, — it was no very high exercise of courage to be unaffected by any suspicion of my guides.



I sat down to dinner with Mr. Hughey about half past two — & at the appointed hour, I supposed about 40 persons were assembled in the room for divine service. Ten children were presented for baptism. Some of the persons who had been married upon the spot by means of a written contract a copy of which they lodged in the hands of Mr. McNider, spoke to me apart & expressing some uneasiness of mind at the insufficiency of the form, solicited me, if possible, to give effect to what they had done by a regular solemnization. It grieved me to refuse them, but I did not conceive that the Law would permit my marrying without either Licence or publication of banns. As, however, they had acted in good faith, & their marriage was likely to be comprehended in some of those Acts of Prov: Pari: wh<sup>ch</sup> are passed, once in a while, to give validity to irregular transactions of the kind, I was

enabled to comfort them both as it regarded conscience, & the recognition of the legitimacy of their Offspring.

The public prayers, the psalm-singing, the preaching of the Word, had all the zest to these people of a rare & unexpected occurrence, & I never was more thankfully received. One of the people said to me in tendering the acknowledgments of the Congregation. "We can only thank you & love you." — They profited by a recommendation conveyed in my sermon that they would make arrangements among themselves for meeting together on Sundays to read some selected prayers & portions of Scripture with a Sermon, & to sing the praises of their Maker. They asked me for books to assist in such arrangements, & I have since sent them down a box, with some written instructions.

Upon the whole it would perhaps not be presumptuous to say that my own plans were happily over-ruled & my steps directed so as to spend the Lord's day in a place so rarely trod by the feet of them that bring glad tidings of peace. A day or two after writing this, viz on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1825, I received a note from Mr. McNider containing very handsome acknowledgments of the effects of my visit at Metis, (which indeed I fear that he over-rated) & accompanied by letters just received from thence, which he sent for my perusal in order that I might see that the people remember me & keep up the practice which I had advised them to establish.

Of the comforts of Mr. McNider's establishment at Metis, which stands upon a bleak naked point of rocky beach, you may judge when I tell you that there was no fresh food in the house — no bread but such as was dingy & sour — no wine-glasses, & if there had been, nothing to put in them but the common rum of the country — & no candles. The only lights in the house were a black, greasy, dungeon-looking, iron cresset, with a wick floating in oil, which was either carried in the hand, or stuck into the wall by a sharp hook contrived for the purpose. — & a make-shift expedient of a saucer accommodated also with a wick & oil. Yet there was an old sofa in the apartment — half a dozen books of a promiscuous description — & in the adjoining cabinet, a passable sort of bed.

My friend Hughey, with very good will, gave me the best accommodation in all points that the place afforded, & while he pressed me at tea to eat, he ventured very near a joke, & his unpractised features broke into a sort of laugh as he said, in Scottish phrases, "I'm thinking ye'd no live long if ye were doon here."

Sept<sup>r</sup>. 20<sup>th</sup>. — The land-travelling to Rimouski is so bad that I was advised by all means to take a boat. Four different occasions of doing so presented themselves in succession, & some hours were lost, before I could get off. First a party of the Metis Settlers volunteered to man a boat belonging to the place. Then an opportunity offered of going in a Fishing-Boat belonging to St. Thomas, above, in which I might go on as far as I should find convenient, & go ashore just where I should please. The Master of this Boat at least the person who assumed a disputed command over her accommodation & direction of her movements. — (the boat belonging, it seemed, to one man & the conduct of it, on acct. of his nautical incapacity, to another.) — came into the room where I was, looking delightfully gentle & goodnatured, & exhibiting a countenance so extremely like that of my friend Joe Miller — not him of facetious memory, with whom I profess no acquaintance, but the Rev. Jos. Miller my old private tutor at College — that I took quite a fancy to him & quickly agreed to his proposal — cautioning him at the same time against any recourse to the Bar, (for liquor was sold in the house.) while he waited for the tide to float his boat: — For I felt an indistinct suspicion that the sooth & complaisant expression which brimmed over in his countenance, might have been heightened in it's over flowings by the impulsion of an irregular cause. The little man immediately tendered me his sack of money — & desired me to keep it that I might be satisfied of his spending nothing in drink: but I could not sufficiently trust to the clearness of his recollections to undertake such a charge. I sat down & wrote: — till my Patience beginning to wonder, I went to see what my friend & his crew were about — & found him far gone in intoxication & fully

Certainly if we consider things rightly, it is a melancholy & not a diverting sight to see a man drunk: to see Religion dishonoured in his person & Reason debased, to be reminded of that extent & variety of evil & suffering which, — especially in these countries, is produced by the improper use of liquor. Yet in the effect of the spectacle itself — in the language, in the utterance, in the gait & action, in the unreasonable & miscalculated proceedings of a man whose head has pretty far lost it's balance from drink. — there is often something irresistibly comic, & I felt it now too strong for all the foregoing reflections tho' aided by a sense of wounded dignity in becoming partaker of the mirth of those about me. I found the little man, among other matters of altercation, insisting vehemently upon the folly of attempting to go with such a wind, altho' it was as fine & as fair a breeze as could blow; & he strode most manfully into the water far above the tops of his Canadian boots which reached the middle of the thigh, to withdraw his own chest from the boat, as he did himself from the entreprize. These boots were then drawn off &, the water being poured out of them, flung aside with an air of disdain any sense of inconvenience upon the occasion, & of not choosing to be put out of the way, in doing what was simply natural & right. The other people did not wish me to go — & convinced me that it would be next to impossible that I should, unless William & I should sit in some of their laps. They were all people from St. Thomas — a great proportion of the Inhabitants of which Parish spend their summers on the Gaspé Coast, either fishing on their own account, or as mere hirelings, or at what I think they call la moitié de la ligne — the boat, tackle & provision being found by the employer, & the prey equally divided.

My third engagement was with one of the Pilots for whom Meris is a considerable rendez vous while they are looking out for ships: but after he had kept me waiting a good while, I found that he had transferred me to a brother of the craft by a private arrangement between themselves — & at last I did get off.

We reached Father Point in Rimouski at 4 o'clock. The distance from Meris, as far as I remember, is 3 leagues. The Pilot was to go no further, & I went ashore to procure a calèche. In this, however, I failed. Most of the people in the neighbourhood kept no calèches: some of those who did were from home: others regarded it as a considerable step towards luxury & grandeur to be possessed of such a vehicle, & they were unwilling to expose it to the rough handling of the Road to Trois Pistoles, which has been lately established thro' the wood, & still goes by the name of a Portage. At all events, they did not like to set off till the morning. Finding difficulties wherever I went, & determined to proceed if possible, I went

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down again to the beach to look out for water-conveyance, & found a Pilot-boat belonging to Cacona & proceeding home, which just came in at the moment to await the tide which would favor her progress between 3 & 9 at night. Having engaged my passage, I went into the house of a friendly agreeable sort of woman, as like Mrs. C. Grant of Montreal, as my tipsy friend was like Jos. Miller, where I took some tea & refreshment.

We embarked, then, in the dark: — the wind was favorable, but it was a miserable easterly blast which went thro' you: I never suffered so much from cold in my life & found it impossible to sleep. William & I laid, side by side, across the hollow bottom of the boat, in which disposition my length described a considerable curve. The Pilot & his man being engaged in managing the boat, he gave us his blankets which, having my cloak all over me, I was not so nice as to decline under such circumstances, but they seemed to have no effect. We reached Cape Orignal before morning. The shore at this place consists of extremely broken heights & is of a wild & savage aspect.

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. — The Sun is not often more welcomed than I welcomed him to his equal share of reign on this day. The wind was now ahead, but it was nearly calm, & we pulled up with the tide, under a high rocky shore, where an extensive burning of the woods had taken place. The wind rose in the latter part of the day, & I gave a helping hand at the oars. The coast here, for a space of seven leagues, affords no anchorage whatever. We got, however, before Sun-set under the lee of a large detached stone, where we cast anchor & rode out the night. Had the wind at all increased, we could not have remained there, & should have been obliged to run down again before the wind, the whole 21 miles. I confess that I was not delighted to find that I must pass a second night in this boat, making the twelfth which I passed on this journey in the open air.

JOURNEY BY LAND FROM TROIS PISTOLES TO QUEBEC — Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. — We had yet some hours to pull before we could reach Trois Pistoles. It was well that I had bethought myself to lay in some sea-stock at Meris, tho' I had little calculated there, of having upwards of two days & nights to spend upon the water. I had given the Indians a trifle to pick the young partridges whose slaughter I have described, & having had them roasted, I had made William put them up in a little basket with about half a dozen sea-biscuits that I got at Mr. McNiders, a

diminutive remnant of tongue, & another of cheese. Had it not been for this provender, we should have been obliged to depend upon what the Pilot could have spared & that was not much, from his stores which were coarse enough in themselves & tumbled about in a way not to provoke appetite, in the lockers of the boat.

About 12 o'clock we landed in the rain at Trois Pistoles, near a white Church of sufficiently neat appearance, & the seigneurial house, from the latter of which we were to be supplied with Calèches. This house goes by the name of *La Grande Maison*, & is in fact considerably larger than the common *habitant* houses of the better sort: it is also distinguished by a preposterous flight of rude wooden steps up to the door, which itself is garnished with a great old French knocker, — & by the projecting ends of beams which once supported a gallery round the upper part of it. Upon entering the door I was not long in discovering that the departed gallery had not left behind it any distinction of gentility in manners or habits which might have once belonged to the family of M. Rioux. The lady of the house, a woman every way very large, & furnished with something approaching to a beard, was sitting, clothed in a dark Canadian bedgown or jacket with the coarse homespun petticoat below, scraping crusts into a pan or tureen, in her preparation of some mess to be committed to the pots hanging in front of her over the fire; — From this occupation she did not desist upon my entrance, nor rise from her seat — nor did the appearance of a stranger seem in the least to turn the thoughts of the company, (for there were several dirty-looking young men & women of the family in the room,) from the channels of their ordinary gossip, with which the conversation of the Pilot immediately mixed itself. A figure sat near the door, of dwarfish stature, whom I afterwards learnt to be exactly 4 feet high, with a large head, long chin & short legs, but not deformed. — & he seemed to measure me with his eyes as if he thought that between us we might make out a couple of passable men. There was an odour of evil promise about the house, which is always worse in wet weather, & an appearance throughout of poverty & decay. The people were not in the slightest degree uncivil or disobliging — but they were clear from any particle of the charm of French politeness, & had indeed no manners whatever.

I ordered a calèche for Cacona, a distance of between 7 & 8 leagues — but there was a River to pass, only fordable at low water, & we were too early to reach it at the right time. While we were waiting on this account, the fishing-boat belonging to St. Thomas arrived from below. — & my little friend came in with the same gentle & goodnatured aspect & voice to buy butter of Mad. Rioux: but he was again under the influence of liquor, & again involved I suppose, in some disputes with his fellow-passengers, for he protested to Mr. Rioux that he would stop & *hicerner* at Trois Pistoles — a proposition which, considering that he was little more than 100 miles from home, & in the first month of Autumn, caused no little amusement at the Seigneurial fire-side.

The Seigneur himself made his entrée after I had been some time in the house: a man with a short jacket, in person both tall & fat, with a good humoured careless expression of countenance-looking, with his rounded features & lightish hair, more like an English butcher than a Jean Baptiste, but as full of chat as any Frenchman alive. He proposed at first to drive me himself, but bethought himself afterwards that his sons were very sensibly less weighty, & would be therefore more acceptable to his horse.

A Seigneurie in such hands as those into which so many of them have now passed, is a perfect anomaly. There is no object in the distinction & privileges of a Seigneur de Paroisse, unless he is both to sustain some kind of public character to which a certain degree of dignity & authority is attached, & to convey some protection & benefit to his Censitaires. In the eye of imagination the Seigneur fills up in a picturesque manner the village groupe, & occupies the front of the rural scene: he is a father to the poor, & forms the apex of the little community: he acts as a check upon the monopoly of influences & the abuse of authority in the Church, yet contributes to preserve for it a proper respect: he feels that he inherits & is to transmit a place & character in the scale of Society of which hospitality & courtesy are among the prominent distinctions. His dress & whole exterior, his house & all its accessories, indicate him as the possessor of an old family establishment. But when the distinctions & dues of the Seigneur become simply *property*; when they are acquired by "greasy Citizens" in the growing ascendancy of Commerce, — or reach, thro' successive stages of deterioration in the family produced as well by the French Law of Inheritance as by other local causes, to a mere dirty & uneducated *habitant*, — they cease to have any meaning & become only ridiculous. — Imagine old Pozer in his black worsted stocking, doing *foi et hommage* for his Seigneurie of Aubert Gallion de l'Isle!

It was one of the numberless errors & oversights committed by the British Government in this Country, to neglect the means which were in it's hands for fostering a respectable aristocracy, & perpetuating a race of Country-Gentlemen.

But let us suppose that we have set off on our road to Cacona. It was not long before we reached the River, where we found that we had still an hour to wait, & went into a house. Here a party was soon gathered round the stove of persons all detained by the same cause; & a general conversation commenced in which the measured puffs of the tobacco-pipe seemed to mark the proper pauses, & to form, as it were, the punctuation of the sentences. The *habitants* of this part of the Country, there is very little travelling below Kamouraska & I have observed the same thing in other of the more remote & unfrequented Parishes. — are of a peculiarly unhewn & unkempt appearance, & seem not only rustic from want of intercourse with the world, but cast in a rougher mould from the hands of Nature herself. They may be described as of a *coarse-grained breed*; which appears in their gait, in their utterance, in the loud, harsh, ill-managed tone of their voices — in their over-charged features & huge misshapen hands. Such at least were some of the specimens which fell under my observation; but with all this they are not wanting in the essentials of civility.

We crossed the River about 3 o'clock & travelled on in continued rain. I had promised the Pilot to put up at his house: but altho' we reached it before 9, there were no lights to be seen, & we knocked long before we could gain admittance. "C'est les jeunes gens de la Grande Maison", was the distinction by which at the distance of twenty odd miles from home, my driver announced himself (& us, whom he sheltered under the same designation) in reply to the suspicious demands from within respecting our quality & business. This was rather discouraging after a hard & wet day's travel, & when we at last got in, we found a parcel of dirty people coming out of several contiguous beds, & I was glad even to find the comfort of a good fire by which to dry & warm myself; but I was afterwards agreeably surprised by being ushered into an adjoining room of larger dimensions, containing a perfectly clean bed, & here I had a hot chop neatly served up, upon which, with my own tea & sugar, & some very passable bread & butter, I made an excellent supper, & then retired thankfully to rest.

I ought to have mentioned, that we brought a most seasonable relief to the mind of our poor hostess, whose husband, it appeared, had been absent so much longer than he had given her reason to expect, that, after much wearing anxiety, she had concluded it as almost certain that he was lost.

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. — I had bespoken the calèche as soon as it should be light, & rose early myself, to be prepared: but I had not to deal with English inn-yards & post-chaises. First catch your horse, is the beginning of the receipt for Canadian preparation. Then, when the horses were caught, — (& one of the poor things was

shaking as if he had an aguefit, from the drenched condition in which he stood —) when the horses were caught, the out-fitting was to be prepared for the out-rigger or horse-adjunct to the principal, who was to contribute his force laterally, like steadying-sail. (I used to suppose studden-sails to be a corruption of steadying-sails: but I have since learnt that they are steering-sails. The vessel will steer by means of these sails, when otherwise she would not.) — to the advancement of the vehicle. The bar being at length cut, & duly adjusted, & connected with horse & calèche by ropes & thongs, we went off merrily enough with a pair of Canadian greys, but the extreme thickness of the weather, & the unintermitted heavy rain which made us glad to use an umbrella, prevented my seeing anything of the features of the Country. I have done therefore with description of scenery — for above the Rivière du Loup it is known to you. At this place I stopped to breakfast with Henry Caldwell who received me with the most hearty kindness — but I must continue to regret that I passed thro' without rendering any professional services to the Protestants who, as I afterwards learnt, are established in some considerable numbers in the Parish or in connection with the Mills & Fishery. I had never heard this: & it did not occur to me in this part of the country, to make the enquiry. The same horses took me on to Kamouraska, — making a joint distance of . . . m., & I there took another calèche which conveyed me to St. Anne . . . m. more — The rain had made the roads very bad & I did not reach St. A. till some hours after dark, but I began to peep after home & would have engaged a calèche, for another stage at the house where we stopped. This, however, the landlord declined — & I very innocently asked him pourquoi? Pourquoi? — quoth mine host, — "parce que je ne le veut pas." I saw that I had to do with a bristling little fellow, whose back was up in a minute where the subject of irritation was only of his own flailing, but in spite of this unpromising commencement of the negotiation, our amicable relations were soon established without any indignant concessions on my side, & we came to a compromise that he should start with me precisely at 4 in the morning, so as to be sure of reaching Quebec in the evening.

He was a quick, bustling, short-stepping fellow prompt in speech with an arched nose & what might be called rather a marked but in no sense a good physiognomy: — below the ordinary stature, but of a square & stout make enough: — subsiding very soon from the effervescence of his bile into civility, but never seeming in a perfectly composed & natural state; not speaking without that slight interruption of breath which is produced by some agitation either of excited feeling, or of swelling conceit, or of mere eager & bustling hurry. He became so civil, & so anxious to appear to take everything well, that when he found I was provided with my own tea & sugar, he said "c'est superbe" — it was an admirable arrangement! — yet he could not so far subdue his irritability but that when he came into the outer room long after I was in bed, & I called out, "C'est il là vous Monsr . . . ? (I forget his name) he answered, "C'est bien certain que c'est moi".

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. — At half past 3 o'clock I arose, & by an arrangement made between my driver of the preceding Evening, & my landlord, went on under the conduct of the former to L'Islet where I breakfasted. The good woman of the house, — a lively dame, perfectly French in her manners, who told me that she had had I think 13 children, & directing my attention to the visible approaches of another, said in a tone between affirmation & interrogation "C'est pas mal

faire?", — recognised me for Armine's brother. He had stopped at her house both in coming up last winter & returning in the Summer, & upon one or both of these occasions, slept there. I sent out to hire a calèche, & when the man came whom I engaged, he also described Armine among other marks as *un Monsieur qui est bien menu*, compressing himself, in aid of his description, with his hands above the hips, — the fingers in front & the thumbs in the rear, — & said that I must surely be the brother of that gentleman. To this recognition, if I am still assailable by vanity, I had of course no objection: & I find in myself, what we see in almost every person living, some lurking infirmity perhaps not resolvable into anything else, which would be rather hurt by comparison to an ugly fellow, & not displeas'd to be persuaded into a belief of resembling one who is of a good aspect & air. But the consciousness & observation of such weaknesses in ourselves, may tend to their cure. We should not venture to tell a very plain man that he was like another confessedly plain. This proves to us that we do not suppose him to estimate his own appearance correctly, tho' we may not ascribe to him any particular vanity or unusual solicitude about his person: but do we not, then, ourselves partake of this general erroneous estimate of self? — & do we not secretly attach more consequence to the outward man than we ought to do?

My driver who wished to take me all the way, engaged to reach P. Levi by 6 o'clock, if I would start at 9, which as the roads were not in a good state was as much as I could expect from one horse drawing three people & luggage. The fellow had a sleek black Canadian mare, whom I was sorry to see suffering from some accidental lameness, but, seemingly without distressing her in the least, he drove her 30 odd miles before he baited at all. He estimated the whole distance up to the Hôtel at P. Levi, at 51 miles, but I believe it is not so much.

There can hardly be anything more beautiful than the approach to Quebec by this road, especially when you are opposite the upper end of the Isle of Orleans, & it is a landscape which derives peculiar advantage from the lights of the westerling sun which were now flung full upon it. A lovelier afternoon & evening, I never saw.

Being determined to proceed direct to Marchmont I stopped, myself, at the little Indian encampment on the beach at P. Levi to bargain for a Canoe, & directed William to go across in the steamboat to Quebec. The only disposable Canoe belonged to a Squaw, & they told me it was too small to venture in with the degree of wind & swell which prevailed. I then applied to some Canadians for a boat, but as they had the conscience to ask me 10% — the price, as William observed, of a steerage passage in the Steamboat to Montréal, — I cut short all negotiation with such extortioners at once. While I was going in quest of another boat, the Squaw came up & offered her Canoe, declaring now that it would do extremely well. As the day was wearing fast away, I closed with her offer & embarked. She steered the canoe herself & a male Indian paddled in the bow: — but they were sally unlike my Ristigouche friends. The man, I found, was quite drunk, & the woman a bragging, brazen wretch, who cursed him furiously & talked to him like a slave, — dealing her offensive & indecent slang among the crews of the vessels which were within hearing, & talking in the same breath of our being in the hands of Providence & of our looking to the mercy of God, if anything should happen to the Canoe. The man commenced a great many remonstrances, which

broke off indistinctly from the confusion of his head, against the length of way which I was taking him, & began to flag very much in the exercise of his paddle: the woman soon joined in these objections, which, like many other sources of dispute, were founded in the vague & indeterminate force of a word in our agreement. I had engaged them to take me, for half a dollar, to the *Foulon*, by which I have been in the habit of understanding *Wolfe's Cove*, but I found that the whole space from Munn's to Wolfe's Cove goes by this name. At length when we had reached a place just below the middle of the race-course, she declared that she would go no further, & put me ashore upon the beach. I did not, indeed, insist upon her proceeding, for I have seldom felt a more painful disgust than she caused me, (this woman by the way pronounced me to be a *Frenchman*, which was the third time on the journey that I was so mistaken. She boasted to have been a great traveller & familiar in many Sea-ports of the U. States, where she had seen the natives of many countries & picked up something of two or three languages. And upon this she founded her present penetrating discovery — "Je dirais que vous êtes Français de France.") — & I was glad to be rid of such evil company. I ought not, perhaps in strict prudence, to have come with them — but I was deceived by my recent experience into confidence in the Indians: & after all, as far as safety was concerned, you never hear of any accident in their canoes.

After waiting a little while on the beach, I found a Canadian lad whom I engaged to carry my Portmanteau to Marchmont. He shewed me a precipitous path up to the plains, & I thence led the way across, to the house. Just as I had passed thro' the shrubbery, I heard the voices of Elizabeth & Harriet with whom I entered the house, where I need not describe our meeting. Let us only thank Almighty God that both you & poor little Armine are now so entirely recovered: & if we are now upon the eve of a longer separation, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to which time my scant enjoyment of leisure has protracted the conclusion of my journal, let us pray that it may please Him to grant us to meet in health & happiness.

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## 1826 JOURNAL

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### VISITATION OF THE GASPE COAST IN 1826

Dr. Mountain was called upon to pay a second visit to Gaspé two years later. This took place in the autumn of 1826. Owing to troubles which had arisen, there was then only one missionary stationed upon the Coast. The archdeacon left Quebec on a small vessel belonging to the provincial Government which was bound for Halifax. He evidently disembarked once again at the entrance of Gaspé Bay where he preached to the French-speaking congregation of St. George's Cove. He then went up the Bay and visited the congregations that had been formed between Gaspé Basin and Nouvelle. The portion of his private journal which is herewith reproduced begins with his preparations for departure from Gaspé Basin. It covers a period of twelve days during which the various congregations situated along the coast as far as Percé were visited. It ends abruptly with a description of his uncomfortable experiences while setting forth in a small vessel from Percé to Nouvelle. He returned to Quebec by the same government steamer which took him down and which now called for him on its return voyage from Halifax. The journal is evidently addressed to Mrs. Mountain. The earlier as well as the latter parts of it are missing.

The first entry, which was probably dated September 1826, describes the closing day of his visit to Gaspé Basin before he embarked in an open boat which carried him along the Coast.

The journal describes his visits to Gaspé and Douglastown pp. 1-4 to Percé pp. 4-11, to Corner of the Beach pp. 11-14, to Barachois pp. 16-17, to Percé pp. 17-21, to L'Anse à Beau-Fils p. 21, to Percé pp. 23-28, and his departure from Percé pp. 28-30.

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MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup>. [Sept. 1826].

I held myself in readiness to go down by a Boat which was expected to set off for Percé & in the meantime as there were six & twenty entries to be made in the two Registers (sic. 13 in each) with the day of the month, the year, & all other particulars in *words* at full length, in every one, — I filled up one copy & signed both, & then set Boomer\* to work. This is really a very troublesome Law\*\*. I received a visit this morning from Mr. S. who stated his ultimatum with respect to terms, if it sh<sup>d</sup> prove possible to make the purchase which I have mentioned, Mr. S. has some trifling property, in the shape of a mortgage, at home, but they have not been able yet to get at it, & have now no dependence, with all their young children, but the produce of the farm. I was in the act of writing a note to him when he came in, in one part of w<sup>ch</sup> I had, with as much delicacy as I thought the case required, made him an offer of £5. to relieve any immediate necessities, & this sum I was going to enclose. I tore off: therefore, this part of the note & wrapping up the bank bills in it, I put it into his hand & told him that it was something w<sup>ch</sup> he might put into his pocket & look at afterwards, but I c<sup>d</sup>. not prevent his opening it, & he told me at once that he w<sup>d</sup>. thankfully accept it. It was a small sum to give to a clergyman in want—but you know that at this partic<sup>r</sup>. mom<sup>t</sup>. I c<sup>d</sup>. not be justified in doing much more: & if his farm sh<sup>d</sup>. be purchased, it will probably be done, in part, by subscription among the Clergy. I cannot say that the impression left upon my mind by our conversat<sup>n</sup>. was entirely such as I c<sup>d</sup>. have wished under the unhappy circumstances of the case. He told me of things with respect to his personal experience of the internal efficacy of Religion which perhaps are felt in their most genuine manner by those who are not so ready to express them. Yet as he explained some points w<sup>ch</sup> had appeared to make unfavorably against him, & as the door of Repentance is never shut, I did not absolutely discourage him from a hope that if he were enabled to remove & were to obtain a school or other suitable occupation in which he sh<sup>d</sup>. conduct himself, for some years, in an exemplary manner, he might, upon the exhibition of proof to this effect, be re-admitted in some other quarter to the service of the Church. He has fallen, & been driven forth from the Sanctuary, & public Shame sits as an Angel with a flaming sword, to guard the gate against his return to it in the spot where he was once so blest: but "the world is all before him where to choose", and after a severe probation it is possible that it may afford a field for the useful exercise of his Ministry. He is altered & grown thin.

After an early dinner the summons came from the Boat. Cochran had insisted upon leaving with me ½ doz. of wine which he had had done up in the expectation of going round this coast with me himself, & I was glad to have an opportunity of leaving this case, as a useful little present to my excellent hostess. He had also given me 20/ in Canada notes which he s<sup>d</sup>. he w<sup>d</sup>. not take out of the Province, & desired me to expend in charity here. I found that there was an old blind

\* Boomer was evidently the archdeacon's personal man-servant.

\*\* The "troublesome law" was one passed by the Legislature of Lower Canada in the year 1785. It specified that each congregation should keep two registers, of the same tenor, each one of which should be considered authentic. This necessitated writing each entry in long hand in both of the registers.

man in the neighbourhood living upon the charity of a poor family, & I left the money for him to be expended according to Mrs. O'Hara's\* judgment.

We got off between 4 & 5 o'clock. I never saw two more active, smart, tight looking manly young fellows than the two young Patersons who took us down. They are among the *natives* of this District of British descent, who I think, are a particularly fine race of men. Their manner of speaking also is entirely free from all peculiarity of dialect or vulgarity of tone. These young fellows were far from speaking grammatical English, but that was almost all that was wanting to make them speak quite like gentleman. They are respectable farmers who were going to Percé on their own business, but like all the inhabitants they were at home upon the sea, in the wild woods, or in the snows, as well as in their barns or behind their plough.

\* Mr. O'Hara was the Principal Magistrate of the Gaspé District the year 1789 when the Bishop of Nova Scotia visited the Coast. He then had lived twenty four years in the country, having been the first British subject to settle in Gaspé (See Dr. Lassis' "Minutes of a Voyage to Quebec" June 1<sup>st</sup> 1789.).



We reached Douglstown about 8 where we took up our quarters with the widow Johnston\*\*, a cousin of these Patersons & sister of Mrs. Lemoine's of Quebec. Her husband was Collector & J. P., & had a considerable idea of his own dignity, w<sup>ch</sup> certainly was not supported by any display of wealth. — & the pittance of income which he enjoyed of course died with him. The widow, however, has discovered a good deal of that force of character which has carried her neighbour Mrs. O'Hara thro' her difficulties, & tho' her accomodation is homely in the extreme she receives the Judge on his circuit & all travellers of any distinction, & she has a pleasure in doing so. She is a sensible & cheerful woman with a good deal of the Scotch shrewdness in her remarks, but she is not so amiable — at least she is not so amiable as the other. After tea she brought out the prayer-book & bible, & we then retired to rest.

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>. — Upon my last visit I was not ashore at Douglstown, where there is only one Protestant family besides Mrs. Johnston's. The place is only a collection of miserable fishing-huts, with a small wooden Romish Chapel. We rose before day, & soon after had breakfast, after which I had a visit from old McGraw, or McGrash, the head of the other family of our own faith, whom I had expressed a wish to see. Altho' he is eighty two years old he had gone up the day before to Church at the Basin, & on acc<sup>t</sup>. of head winds, had gone ashore & walked 4 miles thro' a difficult road. It had wearied & stiffened him a good deal. His chief occupation & delight for some time has been in reading — principally the Bible. He is an erect & fresh looking old man, & was dressed, I imagine, in the clothes which, with other comforts, have lately reached him by a happy accident in his extreme old age. Lord Dalhousie when he came round here lately in the frigate, landed at D. town, & hearing of this old soldier engaged in conversat<sup>n</sup>. with him, in the course of which it came out that he had been a private in a company commanded by Lord D's uncle in the Revolutionary war. He gave him £20

upon the spot, — has since sent him out meal, clothing & bedding, & has recommended him for a pension.

We reached Point St. Peter about one, & went on shore for half an hour. Here also there are only two protestant families, to whom I gave notice that I sh<sup>d</sup>. return from Percé in a few days to the settlement at Mal Bay Cove, a couple of miles from this point. It was about 5 when we landed at Percé. I found the Agent to the other Jersey House which has formed Establishm<sup>t</sup>. in this District, but he had married & did not now live at the store. He asked me to his home, but as his wife was out, we went to call upon old Mr. Fox, whom I have mentioned in my former journal & shall mention again. The old gentleman insisted upon our taking coffee with him w<sup>ch</sup>, was very well served up with plenty of good cream & bread & butter. The butter in this District is excellent.

Mr. LeBoutillier lives in a miserable house at present, but he is building a two-story stone house, from an excellent quarry which he has been the first to turn to account, in the neighbourhood. Our party consisted of himself, his wife, & a very fat woman of 65, of decent respectable appearance, who is the widow of an Officer of the Invalids, lately came over to live with some relations in Mal Bay, — & lastly a very good natured & funny little child three months younger than Master Jacob. Paley says, I think, that different persons will see in different objects the marks of the divine benevolence which are most striking to their minds, but that to him they appear thus in the pleasures of a healthy infant. He might have added that they appear in the solace & the amusement communicated by the infant to the Parents. This young couple seem never tired of playing with their boy, & the father seems to forget all the world & it's business while he has him in his arms & talks nonsense to him; watches his droll faces, & enters into his means of entertainment.

I might almost have comprehended Boomer & the dirty servant girl of the house, in our Party, for the kitchen thro' which alone you approach the setting-room, as never any separation interposed by the unsocial closing of the door. Perhaps this was for the sake of getting the warmth of the fire at second hand, which in the Evenings we much needed. The Master Carpenter who is employed upon the new house, occasionally takes his meals with us. One of the Masons, Mr. Le B. told me, took upon himself lately in the absence of any Priest or Minister, to solemnize a marriage. The officiating fonctionary was a Protestant, the contracting Parties were Romanists, & were afterwards remarried by the Priest. The ceremony took place at the quarry upon a rock by the sea shore. I could not resist saying that if either of the two undertook a task of this nature I sh<sup>d</sup>. rather have expected it from the joiner. You will reply that the other might conceive himself qualified to cement a happy union of hearts. Mrs. Le B. is a Romanist herself, but we had prayers before retiring & she joined in them.

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>. — After breakfast Mrs. Le B. accompanied me to visit the Protestant heads of families, in the village — a task soon accomplished, for they are only 3. The congregation who attend this Church are chiefly scattered in neighbouring settlements. I gave notice of the Sac<sup>t</sup>. on Sunday, & of a preparatory Sermon on Friday Evening, & requested them to circulate the information. Two of these men have had the domestic affliction of a conversion of their wives to the Romish Faith, affected during their absence from the place, by the

Priest. We cannot blame the disciples of Rome for their zeal of proselytism so long as they are possessed with the belief that they are rescuing souls from perdition. . . one of them has produced most unhappy consequences. The poor woman's mind is quite unhinged: she has once since her conversion abjured Popery with vehemence & cursed the hour when she saw the Priest — but she has embraced it again, & incessantly torments the whole family to follow her example. All peace & comfort has fled the house. She did not shew herself while I was there. Of course it was my duty to endeavour to confirm them in their Protestant principles, — but I recommended the utmost gentleness & for bearance in all religious discussions. I am very glad that I brought with me to this District what copies I had left of the *Poor man's preservation* which I got from the Bishop.

You remember the history of my failing to reach the summit of the rocky Mountain in the rear of Percé which is called the Table Roland. Now we have descended to punning we may say that if the Dissenters were to imitate all the notable translations of French names in this District they might call this mountain *Rowland Hill*\* & make the name serve in honor of their famous Preacher. I accomplished it this time with Mr. Le B. as my guide. After a long gradual ascent by a regular path, you come to the base, on the upper side, of this enormous crag which towers above the other heads of the mountain. You enter a thick wood choked with undergrowth in which as you ascend the precipitous sides higher & higher, the traces of a path gradually disappear. The top is of far greater extent than you wd. imagine & still covered thickly with wood of a better growth than any below, — so that it is only by getting to the edge of the precipice that you command any view, & you cannot have a view in front & in rear of the mountain at once. From the former you look strait down the rock into the yawning chasm between this & the lower heads of the mountain. It was thro' one of these intersecting chasms that I passed when Mr. Suddard was my conductor. The rocks which then hung nearest over our heads were opposite to us now, but the scene derived some advantage there from the approach of night, for these rocks are of a crumbling substance, less grand than if they were of the massive & solid masonry of Nature, as I thought at that time that they were. The day was bright & beautiful — the village of Percé with the fields belonging to it lay beneath our feet in a sort of amphitheatre formed by the cliffs & the high grounds which connect them with the mountains within which the site of Percé is nearly level, sloping gently down to the beach, except when a neck of highland covered with smooth turf called *Mont Joli* on wd. stands the Prot. Church juts out into the sea & divides the beach into two, called the north beach & the south; — the expanse of the Ocean was of a clear azure scarcely rippled by the wind — the little specks of fishing boats crossing under sail from Bonaventure island opposite, left their

\* The Rev. Rowland Hill was an eccentric but popular English preacher who was ordained in the church of England but followed the methods of the Methodists: body. He built Surrey Chapel in London where he preached to immense audiences until the day of his death. Sheridan used to say "I go to hear Rowland Hill because his ideas come red, hot from the heart". (P. Schaff: "A Religious Encyclopaedia") Mour St. Anne's old name was *Table-à-Rolante* and sometimes *Table-à-Roland*, this name referring to the undulating table-top of the mountain (J. M. Clarke: "The Heart of Gaspé").

track in the water which looked to us like a fine white smoke — the pierced rock itself to which I had looked up with awe from the water, was now dwindled to insignificance in it's elevation, but was still a striking & singular object. Passing on to the end of the Table you see over a wooded country partly flat & partly consisting of high lands wd. extend far into the sea: & going round to the rear you see the St. Anne's Mountain which is still higher than the table of the heads of other hills, but the view is confined & not so striking as might be expected. The way by which we came down was rather an easier descent, & we fell into the dry gully of a small mountain stream, which we followed & which brought us out close to the point where our upward path had also entered the wood. Not far from this spot is the highest level upon which it could well be consider practicable to build a house — the situation is retired, nearly encircled by swelling heights covered with firs there is space for a house, grounds, & garden & facility of making a

piece of water. The corner of the portentous crag rises to Heaven, in full view, in the rear, & at a small distance only from the site of the house, which, I think might be so placed as to look into the chasm below. but I did not actually explore the ground for my edifice. Of course it will be a massive, antique looking building, of irregular construction, that I shall plant there — my garden too shall be old fashioned & enclosed by a stone wall with huge buttresses along it's length. You will find no inconvenience in living there for a good carriage-road may easily be made up to this point, & I believe the bullock-carts reach it as it is, to fetch fire-woods. It is open from hence downward to the village.

This is pretty well for a man who promised to give no descriptions — but I am describing what I failed to see before. And I have more to do in the same way yet. We returned to our 2 o'clock dinner, & I began afterwards upon the first sheet of this journal.

I have been surpris'd to see the quantity of novels in this District. There are a great many in this very house, & among them the Sorrows of Werter & Voltaire's Romances — the latter however is tumbled away with some books which do not seem to be read.

I made some mention in my last journal of the whale fishery conducted by the people of Gaspé Bay, but I took down this time, more particular information of the different species of whale known in these waters under the names given them by the Inhabitants, which I have omitted to introduce in it's proper place. 1. The Black whale, stated to be about 120 or sometimes 130 feet long. These have not been taken, for they are seen only along the north shore & then in winter — the whalers only go out in summer but some of them meditate wintering now upon that shore for this very object. 2. The Finner, sometimes 100 ft. long. 3. The Sulphur-bottom. 4. The Hump-back which is the most common. 5. The puffing pig, not larger than a porpoise, but otherwise much resembling the hump-back, & able to puff or spout water with the best of them.

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup>. — I had made an appointment, to return this day about 9 m. across to Mal Bay Cove, but I took the settlement of the Barachouais or, as the English call it the Corner of the Beach, in my way. Mr. Le Bourillier took me so far (about 4 m) in his boat. The sea is here beautifully transparent. We passed under rocky & precipitous cliffs formed not unlike the gable ends of houses, with hollows between them, the highest & last of which they say is between 4 & 500

feet above the water. This is separated from the high bank next beyond it by a ravine which descends to the beach, & is called by the French La Grande Coupe, but by the English who have a propensity to give low & familiar names, the *Blow-hole*, on account of the squalls & flaws of wind which seem to issue for it. Many boats have been upset here in windy weather. Passing on under a coast less rude & lofty we landed in a pretty little cove at the commencement of the settlement. The only Protestants here are three families of the name of Mabe. The Patriarch or head of the tribe is an old American loyalist. They are thriving respectable, industrious cleanly-looking people, & without having been formally initiated in any "craft or mystery" are farmers, navigators, fishermen, millwrights & ship or house-builders by turns. The eldest son, really one of the handsomest fellows I ever saw in my life, builds vessels for Jersey, where the owners are very particular about the construction. He is building himself a two story house, the finished part of which he inhabits with his new English wife, & his Aunt my good friend Mrs. Openshaw, who brought her up. — the same fat lady whom I had found on a visit at Mr. Le Bourillier's. Here I dined. The first course consisted only of the fat salt pork which is the staple dish of the country, reclining in a bed of cabbage — but this was followed by a *rolled* pudding made with sweetmeats. They made many needless apologies for the coarseness of the fare. My host who was a great & animated talker, but modest withal & with a particular expression of innocence in his countenance, at the same time that he was the handsome manly-looking fellow that I have described, gave me the history of the family & his own in particular. The only dark feature in the picture is the loss of a brother who fell into the hands of Pirates in the W. Indies. These two had been associated in the profits & conduct of a vessel which they had built together & upon this occasion she had taken freight from Halifax under the command of the elder. She was never heard of, but the papers have since stated that her Register was found on board of a Piratical Vessel taken by the Americans. The poor young man may possibly be yet alive. He & his partner had received no education but such as their mother could give them at odd times, & when they came to man's estate they could not read without spelling the words. The elder put himself to school at Halifax, & there learnt navigation as a science — the other at the age of 21 put himself under charge of the school-m. at Douglstown, & for six months worked at it night & day, seldom closing his studies till 12 at night, till he qualified himself to conduct his different concerns with advantage & to keep his account-books, (which he exhibited to me,) in a regular manner. They are all good people affec-

donate one towards another & delighted beyond measure to see a clergyman & to render him all the service in their power. Altho' they have had such extreme disadvantages with respect to the Ordinances of Religion, they are well acquainted with the Scriptures, & regular in the private duties of Religion. On Sundays they usually meet together & read the Church-prayers or sometimes go over to Mal Bay Cove where the School-m<sup>r</sup>. collects the people for the same purpose, adding a printed Sermon, & the joint singing of Psalms.

As soon as dinner was over, my host Peter spared a hand from his workmen, & thus aided, his brother Philip took me across, about 7 m. to Mal Bai Cove. Philip's mother, & his wife with a young infant, accompanied us. The old Lady deserved credit for going, for she was in terror the whole way. We went under

sail with a beautiful breeze. It is a miserable dirty-looking village, & our little Church was not sufficiently finished to hold service in it, for all the Churches (which are there), within the range of country allotted to Mr. Suddard, have stood as they were since his: . . . altho' promise of aid was given from the Fund, to complete or to improve them. We had service, therefore, at the house of a fisherman who is one of the Ch. Wardens, & whose mother told me that she settled there 53 years ago, before the *revoluntary* war. It must have been the eye & not the ear which furnished her with this word. *Revolutionary* is a long word, & with the recollection of the word *volunteer* &c, connected with War, w<sup>d</sup>. fall with very little jumbling, into the shape of *revoluntary*, to the eye of a person not very particular in her orthography.

The School-m<sup>r</sup>. was at Quebec, but there is no Sallie Law here, seeing the male scholars are all small, to exclude his wife from the Government. With her therefore I transacted the business of this depart<sup>mt</sup>. Six children were presented to be received into the Church with their Sponsors, having been privately baptized by Mr. Suddard, whose exercise of his Ministry even to this extent, I do not conceive to have been warrantable, but whose act I c<sup>d</sup>. not consider null. I preached extempore from the 2<sup>d</sup>. less. read in the Service. The people were devout & attentive & sung far better than in most country Churches in England. I certainly have the comfort of thinking that I am made an instrument of some good on the circuit, & the congregations with some exception in the Bay of Chaleur, are real Church people. Their department is orderly & humbly — they almost all kneel, & many make the responses. And they are uniformly respectful to a clergyman & zealous in their attention to him. A Clergyman lives & travels wholly without expence among them, except his washing & what he may choose, to give to servants in some of the houses — but this last, I believe, is not *expected*. Many other travellers, indeed, do the same.

After Service I addressed the Congregation in answer to two Petitions which were sent up from this neighbourhood to the Bishop — one for a resident Missionary among themselves — another in behalf of Mr. S., whom they conceived to have been defamed & persecuted. I was compelled to explain to them that Mr. S. had confessed his guilt, & that I c<sup>d</sup>. exhibit such confession in his own handwriting. I there opened a box of the Gov<sup>t</sup>. Bibles & prayer-books, & for the first time in my life, became a book-peddler, receiving money, according to the instructions, from one or two of the people who c<sup>d</sup>. easily afford it.

I went to sleep at another house occupied by two single brothers by whom a family who had had been burnt out, had already been taken in out of charity. The appearance of things was not very inviting, but they gave me clean sheets, & I was content & I hope thankful for such shelter & repose. The family betook themselves to the loft, & a bed was spared for Boomer at the foot of mine, upon the sanded floor. I cannot understand the object of this disagreeable practice.

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. — We had some idea of returning by moonlight the night before, but among other reasons w<sup>ch</sup>. detained us, I found that I had more work to do. An infant 3 days old was to be baptized, & the unfortunate mother was to be married to the father. I rose between 3 & 6, & after brief toilet proceeded to the house. The young woman was supported to a chair, in w<sup>ch</sup>. she sat during the whole ceremony. From weakness & tremor she c<sup>d</sup>. not sign her name in the Re-

gister. She was afterwards church'd. I took care to impress it upon all parties present that altho' this marriage was matter of felicitation, it c<sup>d</sup>. not alter the nature of the previous sin. Another child was presented to be received into the Church with sponsors. As I had not anticipated any marriage, I was once more without Licence or Bond, but I provided for the difficulty as before.

After breakfasting at the Church-wardens, we embarked to return. The old lady was too much frightened to come with us. She walked round the shore, by a rough path, to the mouth of a small river  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. from her home & about half way to it, where her husband was to be told to meet her in a cart, for the beach between these two points is composed of a fine, smooth, hard sand. In crossing this Bay the Percé rock, from some points of view, looked like an enormous, rude, old fashioned Church, standing in the water. It has a variety of aspects under different points of view, & in all is a striking object, from the mountain, from the high grounds about the village, from the village itself, from the sea at different distances & in diff. directions.

We landed at the barachouais between twelve & one, & Peter Mabé, my former host, was expecting me again to dinner. I found him in a state of considerable vexation because 3 teal which had been sent from his father's for the occasion had been stewed by mistake, when it had been intended that they should be roasted. I endeavoured to re-assure him, & in truth the teal, which were dressed in the form of a sea-pie, afforded no particular subj<sup>t</sup>. of condolence. We had besides a dish of excellent Jersey bacon, done with eggs, & the correct accompaniment of broad beans. Peter also produced wine & brandy from his cellar — but he is a remarkably temperate man himself, & has had the rare merit of reclaiming two or three drunkards who have been in his employ.

After dinner I embarked again with Philip & Peter's men, for Percé. As you approach the Blow-hole, the rear of the St. Anne Mountain rises at very a short distance from among the wooded heights & presents a face of massive perpendicular rock, like a prodigious wall or rampart, consisting of two squared sides nearly at right angles to each other. In that side which is next the sea there is a kind of recess, with slight projections on each side of it, which has very much the appearance of an immense closed door, or arch-way. The top of the mountain is covered with wood. The rocky sides as well as the neighbouring cliffs are hung all over, during a portion of the year with vast icicles, "as big" (so they were described to me,) "as a puncheon", & presents a magnificent spectacle when these are glittering in the Sun. One of these rocky sides, being that w<sup>ch</sup>. is parallel to the beach, closes up the *gûlsh*, as they call it, of the Blow-hole, which runs directly up to it from the Sea. It is first along the beach, then up this defile, & thence over the mountain to the left, that the Inhabitants of the Settlements in Mal Bay find their path to Percé, with which they have no other land communication, for there is no beach under the intermediate cliffs. Being seized with a desire to explore these wild recesses, I went ashore here with Philip Mabé for my guide, leaving the boat to the conduct of Boomer & the men. The path which ascends the blow-hole is the channel of a mountain — torrent, but instead of going quite up to the foot of the rocky rampart of the St. Anne's, as I had hoped, — (I regret now that I did not pursue it so far & return.) — you quit it for another of the same description which joins it, & this for another still, both to the left, being the side

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next the sea. While you stop & turn round in scrambling up the steep ascent, you cannot help being impressed with the extreme wildness of the scene — you obtain a broken view of the wooded hollow, from which the heights rise irregularly, clothed also with wood, but all is shut in by the impracticable wall which I have described. Till you emerge from the wood at the top, your view is confined to this deep solitude among the woods & mountains. — but at a short distance from what may be called the landing-place of the ascent, tho' still far below the summit of the cliff which slopes upward to a point from the blow-hole & overhangs the sea — you have an extremely pleasing view, across the hollow, of a part of the Bay. From hence you have an easy path to Percé.

The channels which had formed our path were nearly dry & altho' an unusual drought has prevailed, they never, I believe, afford passage to any considerable stream. Two things indeed are wanting in all the scenery about Percé. — majestic or even handsome trees, i.e. w<sup>ch</sup>. singly have any effect. There is however an abundance of ornamental spruce firs & the ornament of rivers or considerable brooks. What a magnificent thing would be a rapid river, like the St. Charles below the fall at Lorette rushing along the bottom of the chasm at the foot of the Table Roland! (or Table à Roland).

Finding no body at home at Mr. Le Boutillier's, I went over to see old Mr. Fox, not without an intention, I confess of taking a dish with him of his good coffee & cream. I was rightly served for having taken these into my calculations, for . . . (four pages missing) of my father's household some 20 odd years ago, at which time he was in Quebec & well acquainted with some of the servants. At a time when there was a hot press in Quebec, my father succeeded him from that violent & cruel invasion of British Liberty, by permitting him to occupy the town-house & sleep upon the "big sofa" while the private residence was in business.

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>. — The day was fine but it blew a gale, which sadly thinned my Congregation. Boats-full would have come from L'Anse au beau-fils, from Cape Cove, from Cape Despoir on our side, from the barachonais, Mal Bay Cove, & Point St. Peter, on the other. One boat only ventured, w<sup>ch</sup> was from Mal Bay & contained the man whom I had married there, with his sureties & witnesses to the bond, faithful to an appointment which I had made for them, when I explained that the form executed upon the spot was irregular & temporary. Some persons, however, who had come over from the L'Anse au beau-fils side on Friday Evening, had remained on acct. of the bad weather on Saturday. Some also came on foot from that quarter, & the three young Mabe's came in the same way, by the blow-hole path, from the barachonais. In consequence however of the many disappointments & of the shortness of the notice for the Sact., there were out 3 communicants. — the smallest number permitted by the rubric to constitute a Congregation for the Communion. The 2<sup>d</sup>. less. was the 25<sup>th</sup>. chap. Matth. beginning with the Parable of the ten Virgins upon which I have a sermon, & upon which I now preached extempore.

In the afternoon I preached in the same way upon the Lord's prayer. I catechized the children. — & where there is neither Minister nor School-master it was gratifying to find them so prepared, & baptized one infant.

I went afterwards, & took Mrs. Openshaw with me, to administer the Sact. in private to old Mr. Fox, whom I had with difficulty dissuaded from going to Church. He had bespoke a sleigh to drag him there, & "while I was there on my duty", he said, "if I drop, I drop".

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup>. — Wrote before dinner: — Went in the afternoon by appointment with a fine breeze to L'Anse au beau-fils. The preparations were duly made for service in the largest room of the house. Long planks were stretched across from chair to chair for the accomodation of the hearers. A table was set at one end surmounted by a box & all covered by a piece of green baize. Upon this were laid the Bible & prayer-book, with a candle-stick on either side, & a pair of scissors in a place to serve for snuffers. Another box with a pillow upon it was placed behind the table as a kneeling-stool. About dark the Protestant Inhabitants of the place with those of the neighbouring Settlements of Cape Cove & Cape Despoir, — about half a dozen families from each of the three, assembled for service. Altho' there were others present who made the responses. Boomer, upon this occasion, officiated very respectably as Clerk. In churching the women, being determined to avoid the *singular*, he said "And let our *cries* come &c". I preached extempore from the lessons, baptized one child & received three into the Church. These persons had concurred in the Petition in favor of Mr. S . . . , & here I ascertained clearly that he had wherever he could, created or confirmed an impression of his innocence. I cannot describe the dejection of the family of the house when were undeceived in this point.

I made a speech to recommend Education, & exhorted the people of all these settlements to exert themselves in performing the conditions required to obtain a salaried School-master. At the Cape the thing is in progress, — after I had taken down the information req<sup>d</sup>. by the Board of the R.-I. from the Master, the Assembly broke up.

Boomer, by the way, has behaved uniformly well, & I really think is becoming serious & earnest in Religion. He would have taken the Sacrament here, if I had advised it, but I then expected to administer it again on Sunday at Pasopodiac, & recommended it to him to prepare himself further in the interval. He now makes the Entries in both Registers, quite correctly, from my rough & slight mem<sup>s</sup>, leaving me only the trouble of signing.

In turning over the leaves of the large bible laid out for my use, upon this occasion, my eye was caught by some pencil marks in my own hand, which were hints for the arrangement of my Sermon when I preached here two years ago.

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup>. — After an early breakfast I returned to Percé. The shallop had not arrived! — I began to think of hiring a boat — but a head wind rose afterwards too high to pull against. Wrote — bathed — dined — wrote took a walk up the side of the mountain & gathered some mushrooms in my handkerchief — drank tea — wrote — went to bed.

In the course of the Evening the arrival of the shallop had been announced.

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup>. — The shallop w<sup>d</sup>. have taken in her load this day & sailed in the Evening but the wind had driven her the night before with several other small craft, to take shelter on the north side of the pierced rock. — & this morning there was not breeze enough to enable her to get back again. The day was thus lost & I again thought of hiring a boat. — but Mr. Le B. dissuaded me, saying that in case of head wind the shallop could beat, but boat men could not pull, & after some perplexity & indecision, I took his advice.

I wrote a long letter to Mr. Suddard & a short one to the Church-Warden at Mal Bay Cove: paid a visit at the house of the Warden here, & that of another Prot: family, & left with them some tracts; — went to bathe as before, at a convenient place, about a mile from my quarters above the other end of the village, & returned to dinner.

I mentioned to you my regret on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, at not having explored the *Cul-de-sac* of the blow-hole, but I was glad now that the opportunity was reserved to me of doing so alone. In scenes such as these, the effect is heightened by solitude. & if you have a companion at all, it ought to be one who can partake fully in your feelings. I took my upward way by the regular bullock-road at the back of the pointed cliffs, & where the path issues from a wood of firs into a small irregular, open space beneath the steep acclivity which forms the summit of the last & loftiest cliff, — I marked the entrance by sticking up a pole, as being the only spot where I could possibly doubt my way upon my return. Just on the other side of this little open space, I entered the descending gully between the woods & dived into the deep recess below. It was at the point of junction between the two channels that I foresook the path which I had trodden on Friday in ascending from the beach, & turned upwards upon the same direct line towards the mountain precipice. The tangled boughs which meet over the channel at the outset, shew the way to be but rarely explored. You have a sort of idea before hand that you shall go up a level or gradually ascending defile, & then come at once under the perpendicular wall of rock from the base to summit. But in this you soon find yourself deceived. The channel becomes steeper — you then encounter huge rounded masses of rock tumbled apparently from above & piled in succession one above another — you clamber over or round them one after another — at length you gain the last landing place before the obstructing rocks rise perpendicularly & overhang at the top — & by sidling up a steep hollow to the left you gain a point from w<sup>ch</sup>. it w<sup>d</sup>. be practicable enough to get across to the ledge above this, but you have the same view where you stand. The long line of the vast rocky precipice shuts in the rear; & you look down the narrow vista of the wooded hollow to the sea — having in front of you to the right, the sharp conical mountain, clothed with wood from the base to the summit, which is cut sheer off from the top on the other side, & there forms the high rocky cliff next to the blow-hole. The precipice at the back does not present so smooth & uniform an aspect as when seen at a distance — it is partly broken into successive ledges, on which in some places there are trees which seem to squeeze themselves against the rock for want of footing — the two woody sides which enclose the channel are also carried up to a point, a good way up the rocky wall. The water, which is now a mere sprinkling, leaps from one ledge to another, from the overhanging form of the rocks, & judging from the breadth of the channel in some places lower down & the numerous trunks of trees which have been washed down, must at some seasons be a strong & rushing torrent. The conical mountain w<sup>ch</sup>. I have mentioned, has perhaps a more striking effect as you descend, where it's pointed top only appears above the intervening forest.

For your particular information & satisfaction, I beg leave to observe that this was an expedition in which it was quite impossible to lose your way. If I were really imprudent, which I deny — I sh<sup>d</sup>. remember your charge. I returned

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sufficiently wet & dirty — for the bushes were still full of the morning's rain.

Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup>. — Alas! Alas! — c<sup>d</sup>. I have foreseen all this, I w<sup>d</sup>. [have] hired a boat ere now to proceed: — A rainy day & the shallop cannot take in her load. I begin to fear that I shall not even reach Paspébiac by Sunday, to which I had once thought of returning by that day after visiting Ristigouche, & had afterwards hoped to be in time to prepare the Congregation for the Sac<sup>t</sup>.

I am sure I must have wearied you with rocks & precipices since I have been at this place — but I have done with them now, & unless I visit Mal Bay on the River St. L. shall have nothing farther to describe.

This same Parcé is a strange place for justice. *Se brouiller avec la Justice* is no very serious affair here. They have no jail in the District except at Carlisle. When an offender is detected & they think it worth-while to proceed against him, if it is in summer, the delay the proceedings till there is a schooner or shallop about to sail. Then, if he is committed, they swear the Master of the Vessel & send him. In winter they pass him on, on foot, by means of the militia, from Cap<sup>t</sup>. to Cap<sup>t</sup>. but he frequently escapes & very unconcernedly returns to the scene of his crime, aware that the trouble of bringing him to justice will not be undertaken a second time. A man who after thus escaping, committed a felony here was at last lodged in Carlisle jail: he bribed a girl who had the keys with a promise of money & marriage to let him out — laughed at her, & came directly home. When they break the peace here, if it is done in a very outrageous manner, — they are carried before the Justice of the peace — that dignitary binds over the culprit & becomes bail for him, himself — he breaks the peace again, & the same man

About a quarter past two — dinner having been duly concluded, — Mr. Le B. who generally dines with the Clerks at the store, came in & told me that in two hours the shallop wd. be ready, for that as it had not actually rained for some hours, they had found it practicable to take in her cargo. Moreover a bullock-cart was ready at the door to take my baggage to the other beach. My packages were soon sent off & being left without my paper or books, & not having any very enduring resource in the conversation of my kind hostess & her visitor, who besides had their own occupations to attend to, I took down from a shelf *La Chute de Capoue*, a French work of 200 pages translated from German, & written in a spirited stile enough, which I read right thro' before I was summoned. I found it there said of Hannibal that he was "avare d'un tems toujours utile", & I carried the expression away because I was actually grudging at the moment the time which I had lost at Percé. I have learnt indeed to be rather avaricious of time myself; & in the humblest walks of the service of the Gospel, it is husbanded to better purpose than that of procuring glory by bloodshed & devastation. If we could only get back now & then a few of the hours which we have wasted, to employ them in any useful or any rational way! — but *insto praepositis oblitus praeteritorum*,\* the English of which you will find in the New Testament, if you can only guess where to look for it.

\* Philippians III 13, 14.: "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth into those things which are before I press toward the mark . . ."  
The Vulgate reads: "quae quidem retro sunt obliviscens, ad ea vero, quae sunt priora, extendens me ipsum, ad destinatum persequor . . .".

My hostess had put up for me a piece of cold roasted pork — a loaf of bread — & some of the cakes which men call *croquesnois*, (tho' I do not know how they spell them.) Mr. Le B. added a bottle of wine. But the inhabitants of the Isles of Jersey & Guernsey denominate *Nerveilles*. We got into the boat to go on board, at six o'clock — but night was prematurely closing in. — the Heavens wore an unpropitious & dismal aspect — a mantle of fog vapour hung about the scene of wd. the most striking features are themselves of a rude & dreary cast. Whatever vessel or craft I go on board of, I regard it always as a matter of marine etiquette, to accost the Cap<sup>t</sup>. in the first instance -- but I cd. discover no person expecting to be so accosted — I cd. discern no symptom of distinction or command in any of the company, & if I had come puffed with the idea of exciting any sensation by setting my reverend foot upon the deck of this oil & fish-carrying Argo, I sh<sup>d</sup>. have been cruelly mortified, for nobody seemed even to be aware of the circumstance. All was litter & confusion upon deck — some were stowing away the remainder of the lading — others hurrying backwards & forwards to prepare for making sail — others getting in or out of boats lying along side — the boy was cooking in a small stove upon the deck — all were jabbering their strange Jersey patois. Yet all were regularly carrying forward their necessary occupations, & as soon as their clatters subsided I made up to the person whom I understood to be the Cap<sup>t</sup>. but he modestly declined that honorable distinction, by saying "c'est moi qui mene la chaloupe". I proceeded after a while to examine where there cd. be a cabin, & boomer indicated to me the place. Descending an up right ladder of a few steps by an aperture which just admits your person, you instantly stoop & enter a cave or cell barely four feet high, the three remaining sides of which unoccupied by births not 6 feet long, the length of the one at the upper end being eked out by it's crossing the back of the other two. The Mast comes down into one end of the apartment, & a shelf is turned up against it wd. lets down to form as large a table as there is space for, the lockers by wd. you climb into the births, forming the seats at the festive board. The births not being considered snug & close enough of themselves, are closed up at the sides except a space so contracted, that, having such scanty advantage from the space without, it is a matter of considerable adroitness for any but a very little man to worm himself into them. The ceiling of the apartment is so blackened with [smoke] from the lamps & candles that my night-cap after having come in contact with it, seemed as if it had been rubbed with lamp-black. The births contained most dingy-looking bedding—what else they mote \* contain I will not venture a surmise.

Within this hole of horrors, I was at last compelled to take refuge from the drizzly night. The two best births were given up to me & the faithful esquire of my body. — the third was occupied by some of the crew when not on their watch: & the others who were off duty also, stowed themselves under the after hatchway upon the oil-barrels. I now saw the extent of my mistake in having followed Mr. Le B's advice to come by the shallop. I wished that I had hired boats — wished that I had walked — wished that I had done anything — but it was in vain so wish — it was too late to repent, & I had ample room for the exercise of

\* *They Mote*: an archaic form of "they might".



your sister's favorite maxim that "Levius fit patientia, Quicquid corrigere est nefas".\* Some higher maxims indeed I called to mind — but of that hereafter. I made Boomer spread by great cloak for bedding, & was glad to put into requisition a shirt which I had worn, as a substitute for a pillow-case — my clean linen I cd. not get at, for my trunks were stowed away. The wind was ahead, but we bear our way along. During the night we had occasionally a change in the fragrance of the apartment, from the tobacco-pipes of the men on the watch, who came down to smoke. The ship's company consisted of the Commander, four men & a cook-boy.

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\* Troubles which may not lawfully be corrected become higher when borne with patience.

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