

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

COONEY'S COMPENDIUM

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A RECALL OF SOME ASPECTS OF ROBERT  
COONEY'S 1832 BOOK, "COMPENDIOUS  
HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE  
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND OF  
THE DISTRICT OF GASPE" THAT MAY BE  
OF INTEREST TO GASPESIANS.

KEN ANNETT

*Presented to the Librarian  
by The Honble W. Sheppard  
Dec. 1843*

COMPENDIOUS HISTORY

OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE



**NEW BRUNSWICK,**

AND OF THE

**DISTRICT OF GASPE,**

IN

**LOWER CANADA.**

**BY ROBERT COONEY.**

*The lowest genius may afford some light,  
Or give a hint that had escaped your sight.*

**HALIFAX, N. S.**

**PRINTED BY JOSEPH HOWE.**

**1832.**

TITLE PAGE OF A COMPARATIVELY RARE COPY OF THE  
COONEY "COMPENDIOUS HISTORY", PUBLISHED IN THE  
YEAR 1832, AND DONATED IN 1834 TO THE LITERARY  
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC BY THE HON.  
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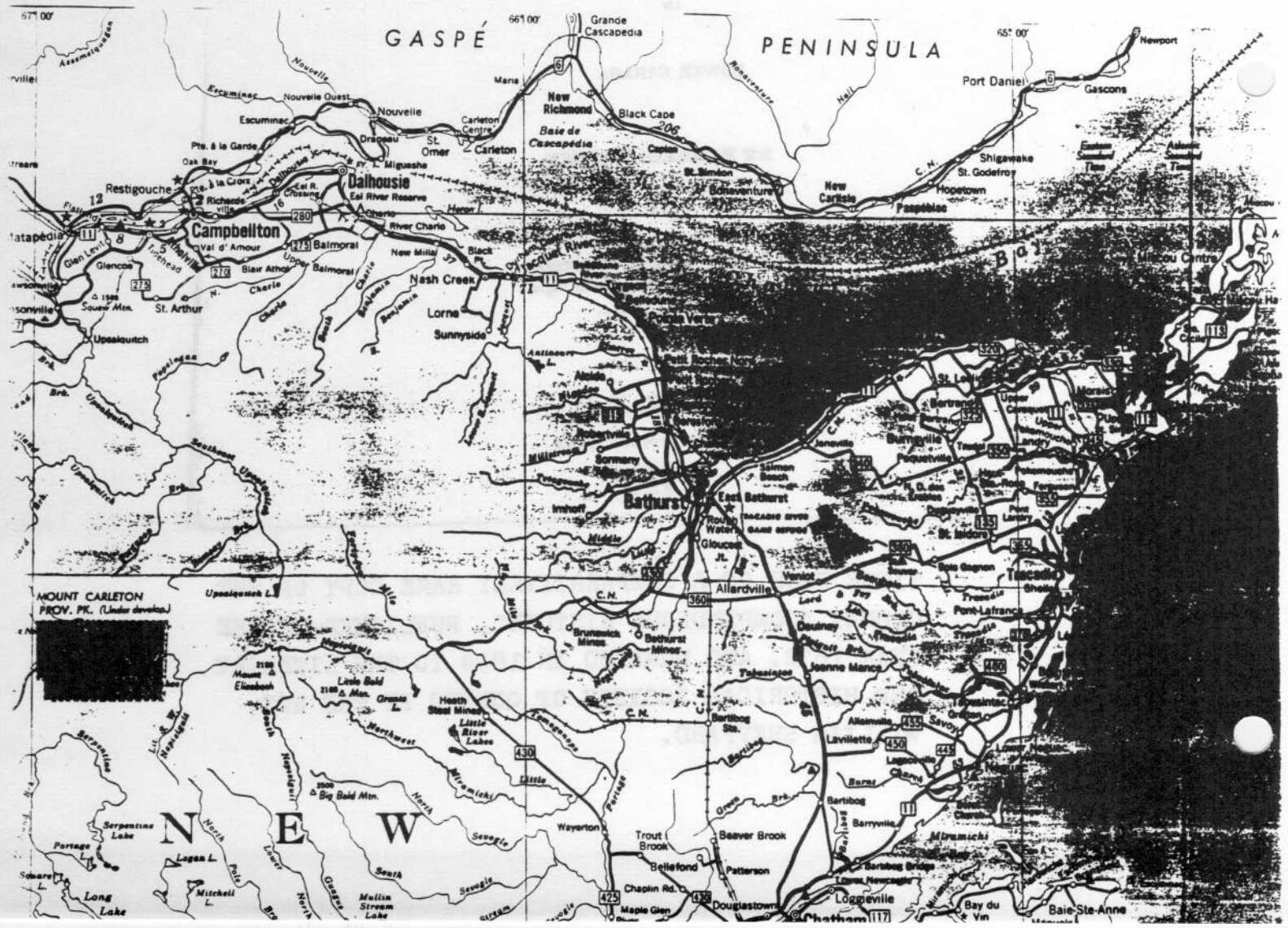
THE BAY CHALEUR REGION

SCENE OF

ROBERT COONEY'S

COMPENDIOUS HISTORY

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## COONEY'S COMPENDIUM

### THE AUTHOR

Robert Cooney, an orphan lad of Dublin, Ireland, with a sound educational background, came out to Canada and the Miramichi area of New Brunswick in 1824. He found employment with a mercantile firm of the Miramichi and became chief clerk. The year after his arrival he experienced the great fire that devastated the Miramichi region in 1825. He subsequently went into newspaper work and eventually became a Wesleyan Methodist parson.

While Cooney's "COMPENDIOUS HISTORY", published at Halifax, N.S. in 1832 by Joseph Howe is far from complete and authoritative on the early history of the Bay Chaleur region, his contemporary account of life and events is interesting and helpful.

### THE BOOK

A volume of some 228 pages, the "COMPENDIOUS HISTORY" comprises the following parts:

- . INTRODUCTION
- . GENERAL DESCRIPTION
- . NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
- . KENT COUNTY
- . GLOUCESTER COUNTY
- . NATURAL HISTORY
- . RESOURCES
- . THE DISTRICT OF GASPE

It is of interest to note that while Cooney's book appeared some ninety years before Mrs. Margaret G. MacWhirter's "TREASURE TROVE IN GASPE AND THE BAIE DES CHALEURS" both authors considered it necessary to write about both shores of Bay Chaleur. The chapters of Mrs. MacWhirter's book on the Restigouche and Gloucester County are an interesting update and supplement to the earlier writings of Robert Cooney.



LINKS ACROSS BAY CHALEUR

Links between the Gaspesian and New Brunswick shores of Bay Chaleur are historic, varied and significant. Geographically, from the shores of Miscou Island the mountains of Gaspesia lie blue on the horizon when the weather is fine at the mouth of the Bay. From the time of Jacques Cartier, and probably long before, mariners and fishermen knew the landmarks along both coasts from Miscou to the Restigouche. Three centuries ago members of the Denys family with their stations at Percé, Barachois, Miramichi and Nepisiguit (Bathurst) operated, without distinction, along both shores of Bay Chaleur. The early missionary, Father Chrestien LeClercq lived among and taught the native Indians of Bay Chaleur from Gaspé Bay to Restigouche and the Miramichi. Later, the refugee Acadians settled along both shores of the Bay and established family links that still persist. In 1758 the Gaspee Expedition of General James Wolfe left its mark on the French settlements from Pabos to Miramichi.

After the Fall of New France the development of the fishery in Bay Chaleur by the Robin Co., the Du Val's and others, was based from fishing stations on both shores and fishermen crossed and recrossed the Bay in search of the best fishing grounds. This period has been well documented by the Abbé Donat Robichaud in his book, "LE GRAND CHIPAGAN - HISTOIRE DE SHIPPAGAN".

While the movement of families from one shore of Bay Chaleur to the other calls for much more study than it has had to date, it is known that such migration was significant. Such Gaspesian families as CORT, McPHERSON, STEWART, FERGUSON, RIMPHOFF, COULL, and ADAMS, to mention but a few, had interesting links across the waters of Bay Chaleur. It is particularly interesting to note that in dedicating his book to Joseph Cunard, Cooney was honoring a member of a sea-faring family whose name often appears in early trading records relating to Miramichi and Gaspesia.

### A BACKGROUND NOTE

By the time of the Fall of New France in 1760 there had been a French presence on the south shore of Bay Chaleur, from the Restigouche to the Miramichi for more than 100 years. The Conquest disrupted the various settlements and, for a time, the new County of Northumberland, which extended originally from the sources of the sources of the Restigouche to Shediac, lay waiting the arrival of British settlers.

In 1764, the same year that Felix O'Hara settled at Gaspé Basin, William Davidson arrived from Scotland to take up a grant of 100,000 acres on the Miramichi. He was soon followed by an Aberdeen man, Mr. Cort and they were joined some years later by Messrs. Henderson, Murdoch, Malcolm, Beck and others. A start was made on the development of the rich salmon fishery of the Miramichi, the exploitation of the vast forest resources and shipbuilding.

Again, in parallel with the experience of Felix O'Hara of Gaspé, the Miramichi settlers suffered from the raids of American privateers from 1775 onwards. In 1777, H.M.S. "VIPER", Capt. Harvey, Master, captured such a privateer, the "LAFAYETTE" and sent her into Miramichi under the charge of Mr. Ross of Percé, who had been on his way home with a cargo of salt and had lost an arm in encounter with the privateer. Ross was afterwards made King's Pilot between Québec and Gaspé. By 1786 Davidson had two saw-mills in operation and the settlement grew with the arrival of some Loyalist families and disbanded soldiers. Both at the time of the American Revolution and subsequently, American agents were active in stirring up the Indians against the British settlement. This threat, however, was minimized by the calming influence of the Catholic missionaries based in Gaspesia.

Following the establishment of the Province of New Brunswick in 1785 the vast County of Northumberland was divided into the Counties of Restigouche, Gloucester, Kent and Northumberland. At this point it seems appropriate to turn to the actual text of Cooney's volume.

## CHAPTER I.

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A brief description of LA BAIE DES CHALEURS,  
GLOUCESTER.

Before we enter upon the history of this County, it would be well to describe the *Baie des Chaleurs*, of which it forms the south side.

LA BAIE DES CHALEURS, OR BAY OF HEATS, was originally called by the Micmacs, Eketaan Nemaachi, or the Sea of Fish. It is a large Gulf, or rather Mediterranean Sea, which, with the River Restigouche, falling in at its head, divides Lower Canada and New Brunswick. The entrance of this Bay lies in latitude  $47^{\circ} 58'$  N. in longitude  $64^{\circ} 30'$  W. and is formed by Point Mackarel, on the North side, and Point Miscou on the South. Here it is twenty two miles wide; its computed length being eighty five miles; and its breadth, within the entrance, varying from thirty, to twenty-six, and sixteen miles.

On the Canadian, or North side, the land is exceedingly bold and prominent; distorted by projections; fissured by cavities; and swelling into a range of lofty mountains, whose elevated and extended summits, resemble, when viewed at a distance, a long chain of rolling and agitated clouds. This tract of country, extending from Point Mackarel to the source of the Restigouche; and from the same Point, along the Gulf Shore to Cape Chapt, at the entrance of the river Saint Lawrence, constitutes the District of *Gaspe*; and is divided into two Counties, the inland one being called Bonaventure, the other *Gaspe*. On the South side, except within twenty miles of the head of the Bay, the interior of the country is rather low, although the immediate shore is, in some places, considerably elevated, iron-bound, and inter-pointed by perpendicular cliffs.

The whole of this Bay may be considered one immense harbour, containing several capacious ones. It is well sheltered from the most prevailing winds; is abundantly supplied with all varieties of fish; is the outlet of several large Rivers; has neither rocks nor shoals, and is encompassed by extensive tracts of fertile land, well wooded, and abounding with Lime Stone, Granite, Coal, Gypsum, Ochreous Earths, and different kinds of Metals.

In the midsummer of 1534, the celebrated French navigator, *Jacques Cartier*, entered this Bay, previous to his discovery of the Saint Lawrence. He was the first European that ever visited it; and in consequence of the intense heat he experienced on that occasion, he called it *La Baie Des Chaleurs*, a name by which it has ever since been distinguished. These remarks may enable the reader to form a tolerably correct idea of the general bearing and situation of the country we are about to describe.

The County of Gloucester commences near Tracadie a river falling into the Gulf, about 30 miles north of Miramichi. From thence it extends along the shore, round Miscou, up the south side of *La Baie des Chaleurs*; and on to the sources of the Restigouche. The sea shore is low, flat, and sandy; thinly inhabited, and for a couple of miles back, lightly covered with Spruce and Fir. From Miscou to Miramichi, as well as from thence to Shediac, the coast is skirted by large lagoons, some of them twelve miles long and three miles wide. These greatly facilitate the coast navigation of small craft, and through them, in order to be shipped, is the timber made at Tracadie and Pugmouche, conveyed either to Miramichi or to some of the harbours in the *Baie*.

This county is subdivided into five Parishes, viz.: *Saumarez, Bathurst, Beresford, Addington* and *Eldon*; watered by several large rivers; contains many good harbours, and comprehends an extensive tract of well timbered country. On these and all other particulars I shall, in its proper place, furnish as much, and as accurate information as I can.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

Although Cartier discovered *La Baie des Chaleurs*, as early as 1534, it appears that the French government allowed more than a century to elapse, before they paid any attention to it.

This apparent neglect, so irreconcilable with the views and policy of a nation, proverbially ambitious and fond of dominion, may be traced to these two causes. The South side was, like the rest of Nova-Scotia, a continual bone of contention, alternately changing its pro-



prietorship from France to Great Britain, and from Great Britain to France. And although the Northern side was the *bona fide* property of the French, it did not possess sufficient attractions to claim particular attention.

It is said, that during the reign of Henry II. of France, the son of Francis I., who was cotemporary with our Henry the Eighth, that an attempt was made to form a settlement about Percé, in the district of Gaspé. This may be true, for at that time, France was in a very flourishing condition, while England was torn asunder by civil and religious feuds. The French arms, directed by the Duke of Guise, had been alike successful against the Germans, the Spaniards, and the English, from the latter of whom, they retook Calais, which had been an appendage to Great Britain, from the reign of Edward III. The strength of England, moreover, received a temporary check from circumstances, with which every general reader is intimate.

The reformation had but dawned; the youthful Edward was scarcely cold in the newly made grave of his father; the kingdom had but escaped from the turbulent regency of the Duke of Somerset; the public mind was agitated by polemical theology; the right of Royal succession was disputed; the blood of Lord Dudley, and Lady Jane Grey, purpled on the scaffold; Wyatt's insurrection inflamed the people; the intrigues of Cardinal Pole impaired the energies of the nation; the conjugal relationship between Mary and Philip excited distrust and jealousy; and the bloody syllogisms of the Queen spread dismay over the country. Considering then, the relative state of the two nations, at this period, it is not unlikely, that a settlement had been attempted in Gaspé, by the French. It never arrived to maturity, however, possibly on account of the king's death, which happened in 1559.

Although this calamity dispersed the French, they returned again; for about the year 1670, the grandfather of Mr. Charles Doucette, of Bathurst, settled on the Little River; and at that time, there were French settlements all around the harbour, and down the Bay, towards Grande Ance, and Caraquette. The people, then, appeared to be in comfortable circumstances; there were no merchants; and agriculture seemed to be rather extensively cultivated.

About the year 1692, a total dispersion of the French took place. The *Micmacs* of this country, over whom presided an influential fellow named Halion, becoming jealous of the increase of the settlers, possessed themselves of the greater part of their stock; demolished all their houses and buildings, and obliged them to quit the country altogether. When we consider that Bathurst was the immediate boundary of both the *Micmac* and *Mohawk* nations, and that the former made a vigorous attack on Canso, thirty years afterwards, their hostility in the present instance should excite no astonishment.

Although the French government overlooked this violent conduct of the Indians, they cannot be accused of any apathy or indifference, for the country did not then belong to them. It had been lately taken from them by Sir William Phipps, because they had not paid a certain stipulated sum, agreeably to the treaty of Breda. Under these circumstances, the French were in fact gainers by the hostility of the Indians; for it served to increase the population of Canada, and other places of which they were in full enjoyment, while it tended to weaken Nova Scotia, where their power had always been both brief and equivocal.

From the expulsion of the French, until six or eight years after the taking of Quebec, nothing particular occurred. About this time, a Mr. Walker, from the North of Scotland, and who was commonly called Commodore Walker, arrived in the Bay; and formed an extensive establishment on Alston Point, on the North side of Bathurst harbor. This gentleman came attended by several adherents, among whom were a Mr. John Young, an Englishman, and a Mr. Robertson, a native of Morayshire, in Scotland. The former married an Indian, and is now dead; the latter is still living at the advanced age of 94.

At Alston Point, Mr. Walker had a splendid and elegantly furnished summer residence; also five large Stores; a requisite number of out-houses; and a tolerably strong battery. Here also had he a very fine lawn and a handsomely disposed garden. At Youghall, near the head of the harbour, he had another large dwelling house, which he occupied in winter, besides a



fishing establishment on the Big River, about 3 miles from its entrance. At this time, Mr. W. engrossed the whole trade of the Bay, then consisting of an extensive exportation of Furs, Moose Skins, and the hides, fat, and tusks of the Walrus. To these general exports he usually added:—an annual cargo of Salmon, and sometimes two or three of Cod and Scale Fish, to the West Indies, and the Mediterranean.

This gentleman continued, both by his example and influence, to advance and improve the country; until his spirited and beneficial enterprize, was interrupted by the war between Great Britain and her revolted Colonies.

Shortly after the commencement of this rupture, some of the Revolutionary Privateers entered the Bay, and wreaked their vengeance upon Alston Point, and all the other settlements. Having taken and destroyed upwards of £10,000 worth of property here, they proceeded to Restigouche, where Walker had another establishment under the direction of a Mr. Smith. After committing similar depredations there, the Privateers were proceeding down the Bay, when two English gun-brigs, the Wolf, and the Diligence, intercepted them. An engagement took place off Roc Percé, near which, two of the American vessels were sunk, the rest having endeavoured to escape.

After this affair, Walker returned to England, and was, upon his representation of the state, condition, and resources of the country, appointed to a subordinate command, under the Admiral on the North American station. When the expedition entrusted to his care was about to sail, it is said he died of apoplexy. Of this gentleman, whom we may denominate the first

English settler in Gloucester, I shall relate a few particulars supplied by his cotemporaries.

Mr. Walker was an Officer in the British Navy, and served with great credit as a Lieutenant, under Admirals Hosier, and Knowles. Under the former, he assisted at the taking of Porto Bello from the Spaniards; and attached to the latter, he aided Captain Howe, of the Magnanime, in capturing the Isle de Aix, from the French.

The whole lucrative gum trade, from Cape Blanco, to the River Gambia, being monopolized by the French; who had built Fort Louis within the mouth of the Senegal; and had fortified the Island of Goree, on the coast; it became a matter of serious and public complaint in England, that our merchants and manufacturers were obliged to buy gum second hand from the Dutch, who forestalled it for the French at an exorbitant price. These considerations having a tendency to accelerate the adoption of a plan, formed by a Mr. Cumming, a Quaker, for annexing Senegal to Great Britain, an expedition under his command, was despatched for that purpose.

This little armament, consisting of the two annual Guinea traders; and three small sloops, with a detachment of soldiers, and a few pieces of ordnance, sailed in 1757; and to it, was Captain Walker appointed Engineer. The English, assisted by the Moorish Prince Amir, succeeded in taking Fort Louis, and Senegal, by which his Britannic Majesty acquired a valuable tract of country, besides 100 pieces of cannon, with treasures and merchandize to a considerable amount. To these splendid results, the skill and intrepidity of the Engineer greatly contributed.

After the arrival of the expedition in England, Captain Walker was honored by a London Company, with the command of five smart Privateers, equipped for the purpose of annoying the Spaniards. In this service he greatly distinguished himself by making several prizes; but being a man of improvident habits, it is said that he made but little for himself; and that he was at length discharged for imprudently engaging a Spanish Galleon, by which his own ship, the America, was much injured, and another of his fleet blown up.

Involving in this disappointment, he became a prisoner in the King's Bench, where he remained for a considerable time, until through the interference of some of his friends, he was at length released, and established at Bathurst, as we have already mentioned.

The present French, or Acadian inhabitants of the country, are principally from Capé Breton, Saint John's Island, and Cumberland. The oldest settlement, inde-

pendently of those founded by Enaud and Walker, is Carquette, where, it appears, two brothers of the name of La Roc, from Lunaire, and two others called La Burton, and St. John, natives of Bretagne, located themselves about the year 1768.

*Description of the coast, villages, and settlements, from Tracadie to Bass River.*

Having passed Tabointac gully, on our way towards Miscou Point, the first rivers we meet in the County of Gloucester, are Great and Little Tracadie; both of which, after running parallel courses of nearly 40 miles, discharge into the Gulf through a spacious lagoon.

This Lagoon is nearly 12 miles in length; and in some places 3 miles wide. The entrance of each river is a small outlet or bar, formed by estuation, and over which at the highest spring tides, there is seldom more than 7 or 8 feet of water. These channels, though shallow, would, had they a permanent locality, be of considerable service to the settlers; but as they are continually oscillating, their navigation is both limited and intricate. The waters of the lagoon, being separated from the gulf, by only a narrow stripe of sand, occasion this inconvenient mutation.

The Great and Little Tracadie Rivers have a Lake-like appearance; and run through a level country, of rather a sandy description, but tolerably well wooded with white and red pine. On both these rivers considerable quantities of timber have been manufactured, and sent to Miramichi, for shipment.

Great and Little Tracadie contain 110 houses, dispersed along the tide way; and occupied by 860 souls, almost exclusively Acadian French. On the former there is a neat wooden chapel, having a pulpit and gallery, besides a handsome Altar piece of Saint John the Baptist, occupying the centre of a small collection of pictures. The inhabitants live principally by agriculture and fishing, doing, in the former, but very little; and employing in the latter, 35 boats, and 3 shallops. All their cured fish is sent to Miramichi.

POCKMOUCHE rises near the *Anscout*, a branch of the Great Tracadie; is about thirty miles in length, of rather a sluggish cast; and crawls into the gulf over a soft and ample bed. From its source down to the head of the tide, this river is skirted by narrow tracts of intervale, stretching along the base of a tolerably good upland, formerly well timbered with white pine, birch, and maple; and in the tide way, a considerable expansion forms a number of creeks and gullies, watering large patches of salt marsh. This river now contains a horizontal Saw Mill, a small Chapel, one day School, and 65 dwelling houses. The inhabitants, amounting to 350 souls, consist of Irish and French, and are principally occupied in lumbering and agriculture.

From this to Miscou, a distance probably of 30 miles, the coast is dull, tame, and monotonous; alike unthickened by a single feature, capable of either employing the pen, or engaging the attention.

MISCOU ISLAND, the N. E. end of which is emphatically called Point Miscou, forms the Southern entrance of the Baie des Chaleurs. This Island lies in deep water; is 21 miles in circumference, and is the first New-Brunswick land, looked for by vessels, bound to any of the ports in Gloucester.

Before the capture of Quebec, the French had an incorporated fishing establishment on this Island; and of which, some remains are still visible. It is now resorted to as a favourite fishing station, by both Americans and British; and it is an incontrovertible fact, that here, do the former frequently cure the fish, that they take upon neutral ground.

The Americans also resort to Shippegar harbour, where, under cover of an ambiguous law, do they often defraud the revenue, by illicit commerce. Indeed, I have heard it alleged, that they often directly barter with the inhabitants, giving them in lieu for green fish, brandy, rum, tobacco, tea, &c. brought in their own bottoms, either from some port in the United States, or from St. Pierre. If this be true, Uncle Sam has certainly the laugh against us, for it is rather difficult to con-



ceive a toleration more extraordinary, than that one nation should allow another, all the profits derivable from a contraband trade, carried on in their own harbours, and to the prejudice of their own industry.

The Americans are also accused of wilfully injuring the fishery, by throwing the offal overboard in shoal water. This is rather an invidious proceeding, for the New-Brunswick boats, are, from circumstances, often unable to fish in deep water, while by the above conduct, they are precluded from deriving any advantage from the shore fishery. These injuries are committed under the specious sanction of a treaty, that allows the Americans to fish within three miles of the land; a provision, than which, a more foolish one never was enacted. Restricting them to this distance is a senseless condition, for our own fishermen rarely take any thing, within the same extent beyond the line of demarcation.

MISCOU ISLAND is much indented by creeks and gulches; but a deep cove or basin, called Mall Bay, is the only place of shelter, even for boats. Here are some very extensive tracts of marsh meadow land, capable, without any improvement, of supporting upwards of 1,000 head of cattle. Miscou also contains a considerable quantity of black birch, spruce, and maple; and is calculated to absorb from 60 to 70 families.

LITTLE SHIPPEGAN HARBOR is formed by an estuary of 3 miles wide, running round the west end of Miscou Island. This is a good harbour, having a safe channel of 2 miles in width, with excellent anchorage in 4 and 5 fathoms. To this harbour there are two entrances; one in the *Base des Chaleurs*, the other in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The former is bold and open; easy of access; and sufficiently deep for large vessels; the latter is narrow; intricate and shoal, and capable of admitting only boats and small craft.

GRAND SHIPPEGAN HARBOR.—This harbour lies 22 miles west of Point Miscou; and almost directly opposite to Port Daniel, on the North side of the Bay. The entrance is formed by Shippegan Island on the East, and Pouckoudie on the West. It is a safe commodious harbour, having a fine broad channel, plenty of shelter, and good anchorage in five and six fathoms. This harbour also possesses an entrance on the Gulf side; but

it should not be attempted by vessels drawing more than six or seven feet.

SHIPPEGAN ISLAND is about 20 miles long, but rather low and sandy. The soil is a light friable loam, producing small Birch, Fir, Shrubs, and a variety of berries. It also yields a fair average crop of wheat, potatoes, and oats, which the inhabitants raise in small quantities.

On the west end of the Island, are two small settlements called Big and Little Amacque; and on the main land opposite, is another, called Shippegan, the whole aggregating probably, a population of 700 souls, principally Acadian French. The almost exclusive pursuit is the Cod fishery, in which they employ about thirty large open boats, manned with four or five men each; besides twelve schooners, carrying eight men each. The boats are constructed like whale boats; and generally fish off Miscou; but the schooners resort to the Bradelle Bank, in the Gulf; and to some shoals lying near Prince Edward's Island. The boats return every twenty four hours; the schooners generally, keeping at sea eight days together. In this way are two hundred fishermen, natives of Shippegan, employed; while there is also a considerable number retained in the service of Mr. Duval, a Jersey merchant, lately established here. This gentleman loads two brigs annually with Cod fish; but the quantity actually cured in Shippegan, rarely exceeds 4,000 quintals a year.

Big and Little Amacque, are highly celebrated, for their superior Oysters, a considerable quantity of which is annually shipped to Quebec and Halifax; and Saint Simoi's Bay, a deep inlet, washing the west end of the Island, is said to have derived its name from that of a French Corvette, sunk there after the conquest of Canada. At Big Amacque there is a tolerably good Grist Mill; and at Shippegan, a Roman Catholic Chapel, which, as well as those at Pockmouche, and Tracadie, is attended by the resident missionary of Caraquette.

CARAQUETTE HARBOUR AND SETTLEMENT.—This harbour, the entrance whereof is formed by Pouckoudie Island, and the East end of Caraquette Island, lies about 30 miles West of Miscou; and is six miles long, and three miles wide. From each of the Islands a large shoal extends into the Bay; but between them is a good

safe channel, having at low water, from four to five fathoms. Almost every chart I have seen, erroneously describe the entrance of this harbour. They invariably place it between the West end of Caraquette Island, and Point Mizzinette, where there are but 6 or 6½ feet at low water. This, however, is a very convenient entrance for small trading vessels, as it is much easier made than the main one, which should in no case be attempted without a Pilot.

These three harbours are as good as any in the Bay, except Restigouche; and were timber but a little more plentiful in their vicinity, their capabilities would be of the utmost importance.

CARAQUETTE SETTLEMENT is a long populous village, extending for more than ten miles along the shore of the Bay. About 150 houses, glittering over this extent, acquire a considerable degree of picturesque beauty, from a number of corn fields and meadows that surround them; and from the lofty spire of a very elegant Chapel, rising in the midst of them. Several of the houses being built of stone, make a very respectable appearance; while the general aspect of the settlement informs the traveller, that the people enjoy a kind of pastoral mediocrity, alike removed from the anxieties of opulence, and the ills of penury.

The Chapel is a handsome stone building; is capable of holding about 800 persons; and is highly ornamented by appropriate devices, and scriptural pieces. This comparatively splendid edifice, was reared by the voluntary contributions of the people; and is supposed to have cost upwards of £1,400.

At the upper end of the village, is the scite of the old Chapel, a spot, than which, a more delightful cannot be easily conceived. It is the immediate brow of a maidenly eminence that spreads into a fine parterre, covered with a rich carpet of green sward, elegantly diapered with mosses and wild flowers. Round this delightful little plain, a luxuriant forest of Birch and Maple, festooned by two small Beech groves, fling a gorgeous halo of sylvan drapery; while the mellow cadences of a little stream, issuing from the crevices of a rock at a short distance, mingle their accents with the floating melody of a balmy wind.

The soft and pastoral beauties of this sweet retreat, acquire additional charms from contrast. Its mild and serene loveliness forms an amiable and pleasing relief, to the rude and precipitous appearance of the opposite shore; while its graceful and modest scenery receives dignity and elegance from the arrogant and frowning aspect of the Canadian mountains. It also commands a fine view of the harbour of Caraquette; of the Ports of Miscou and Shippegan; of the vessels in the Bay; and of the principal settlements in the district of Gaspé. In fine, it is a vivid picture of moral, as well as natural beauty; every thing about it seems to be hallowed, and although not a vestige of the church is visible, religion appears to linger round its former precincts, as if unwilling to depart.

Two rivers, the North and South, both rising in Lakes, discharge into Caraquette harbour. The former is about nine miles long, runs through poor swampy land, and has no settlers: the latter is 24 miles in length, flows through good land, thinly covered with dispersed pine, birch, and maple, and affords a comfortable residence to a few families.

The land in the vicinity of the Village, being very fertile, is highly favourable to the cultivation of all kinds of grain; a circumstance often profitably demonstrated, by the production of as good wheat, oats, and barley, as are generally raised in any other part of America.

The inhabitants, amounting probably to more than 1200 souls, are nearly all Acadians; and are apparently in easy circumstances, acquired by a tolerably extensive prosecution of fishing and agriculture. In the former they employ 100 small boats, manned with two men each; besides six schooners of the same description, as those belonging to Shippegan.

Caraquette, as I have elsewhere observed, is rather an old settlement, the cause, perhaps, why its inhabitants particularly the women, exhibit more of the colour and features of the Micmac Indians, than is generally discernable in Acadians. This personal distinction, however, is also observable at *Petit Roché*, another French settlement farther up the Bay; and there is little doubt,



that the peculiarity in both cases, is the result of the early settlers having intermarried with the savages.

From this to Bathurst, a distance of more than 25 miles, the land is bold, steep, and iron-girt. It contains several excellent grind stone quarries; some large beds of ochre; and in several places, *strata* of coal, disposed in horizontal layers. These *strata*, or beds, appear to commence about 5 feet above the land wash; thence ascending in equal and regular grades, to within a short distance of the surface. Large detached lumps of this mineral, as well as coarse specimens of metallic substances, strew the beach in a variety of places.

In this district, the interior for about six miles back, is very good land. The rear of the front, or granted lots, is covered principally with large birch and maple; while the same description of wood, with a mixture of beech, and pine, constitute the chief growth of the second concession. Throughout these are distributed some maple sugaries; interspersed with occasional groves of juniper, particularly adapted for ship-building.—The coast from Caraquette to Bathurst, is divided into three settlements, called Grande Ance, Pockshaw, and New Bandon, each of which, we shall notice as we proceed.

**GRAND ANCE**, the next settlement west of Caraquette, is about 8 miles long, but very thinly settled, containing little more than 18 or 20 Acadian families, who live by agriculture and fishing. This straggling village has no harbour, nor is it possessed of any thing calculated to distinguish it, except a small wooden Chapel, and an insignificant Grist Mill.

The East end of this settlement, and a considerable distance above that line, are sometimes called the Capes, or Pockshaw. Here, has the shore a repulsive and forbidding aspect; for a range of cliffs, nearly perpendicular, and upwards of 60 feet high, form a sort of embraured battlement, extending for several miles in length. This embankment affords considerable shelter to the settlement; and beneficent nature, as if willing to confer the blessing unmixed by any alloy of inconvenience, has kindly formed, at nearly equal distances, four large ra-

vines, winding from the summits of the cliffs, down to the level of the sea. These passages, facilitating a safe and easy communication with the water, are of the greatest service to the settlers. In addition to many other advantages, they enable them to obtain fish for sustenance, and kelp for manure. Through this settlement two rivers discharge into the Bay; on one of them, Mr. Young has lately erected a Saw Mill; and on the other, there is a tolerably good Grist Mill.

**NEW BANDON**, the next Westerly settlement, may be said to extend to Bathurst. It is of recent formation, the first settler not being more than 14 years in occupation. The inhabitants, consisting of 70 families, are principally Irish emigrants, from Bandon, in the County of Cork. Several of them are Methodists, who seem, although long separated from the clergymen of their own profession, to have suffered little or no estrangement from God. They did not, as too many do, abjure their religion, when they left Cape Clear. Edified by a science that instructs the heart, convinces the mind, and disciplines the will, their conduct is an eloquent vindication of the doctrines, preached and established by the pious and venerable Wesley.

New Bandon, although but a young, is a flourishing settlement. The soil is good, and the people have, by unremitting industry, good management, and an exclusive attention to agriculture, succeeded in raising themselves from comparative poverty, to a respectable proprietorship of land and cattle. Some of them have 50 acres under cultivation; all are well provided with stock and utensils; and the average arable quantity belonging to each family, may be rated at half the above size. The principal market is Bathurst; but when this is supplied, any residuary surplus may be easily disposed of up the Bay.

**BASS RIVER.**—About a mile below Carron Point, at the entrance of Bathurst harbour, does this river debouche into the Bay. Eleven miles from its mouth it diverges into two branches, one running North, the other South. The former can be driven for 4 or 5 miles; but the latter is almost totally impassable. The banks of the main river, are a good description of upland, well timbered with white pine; and skirted by large intervals, sustaining unusually tall alders.

*Description of Bathurst Harbour and Settlement.*

BATHURST, situated about 55 miles W. of Miscou, is what is commonly called a Bar Harbour. The entrance is formed by Alston Point on the North side, and Carron Point on the South; the distance across being little more than 230 yards.

A short distance outside of these points, lies the Bar, a small narrow ridge of sand, holding at spring tides, from 15 to 15½ feet of water. A safe and easy channel, running between this shoal and the entrance, furnishes the general place of loading; but vessels exceeding 14 feet draught, generally take in part of their cargo outside of it, where there is a safe Bay, or Roadstead, with deep water and good holding ground.

Within the points, the harbour may be called a beautiful and picturesque basin, forming nearly an elliptical sheet of water, 3½ miles long, and 2 miles wide. It is well sheltered from all winds; and is supplied by four rivers; which discharge into it; and by their confluence form what is called the main channel, in contradistinction to the respective channel of each of them.

Up all these channels, boats and small craft may proceed for a considerable distance; but the main one contains 14 feet; and runs in rather a direct course, until it flows into the passage, at the entrance, and thence over the bar. Availing themselves of this circumstance, those who are acquainted with, or will be persuaded of the capabilities of the Basin, load as frequently within it, as they do outside of it.

Bathurst contains an immense stock of as good timber as any in the Province; is provided with skilful pilots; exacts very moderate port charges; is under the superintendance of a judicious Harbour Master; and may, from these considerations, as well as from a general view of its capacities, be considered an eligible harbour, for the smaller class of vessels, employed in the North American timber trade.

SETTLEMENT.

The Basin of Bathurst, and the largest of the rivers that discharge into it, were originally distinguished by the *Micmacs*, under the general and expressive appellation of *Winkapiguwick*, or the troubled and foaming waters. In the course of time, this name degenerated into the corrupt and unmeaning soubriquet of Nipisiguit; that was subsequently changed into Saint Peters, by the French; and for its present one, it is indebted to a township, lately erected on the N. side of it, which was, in compliment to the then Colonial Secretary, called Bathurst.

This is the Assizes Town; and is designed to occupy a level and elevated point of land, laterally bathed by two large rivers. It was laid out but four years ago, when it had but four or five small houses; now it contains an elegant Brick Court House, roofed with slate; also a temporary Episcopal Chapel, besides a Gaol, Post Office, three or four mercantile establishments; and upwards of thirty dwelling houses.

All round the basin is thickly inhabited, particularly towards the upper end of it. Here there is a small settlement called the French village, consisting of a range of houses dispersed along the side of a hill, crowned by a neat little chapel, and two or three rustic wind mills.

The land being rather high, and tolerably well cultivated, the whole settlement resembles a lake, surrounded by an embroidered belt of meadows and corn fields, gemmed with houses, and bordered by trees. The soil is a composition of clay and gravel, impartially distributed; and is very favourable to the cultivation of wheat, oats, potatoes, and all the various kinds of ground crops.

The population of Bathurst amounts to upwards of 600 souls, involving nearly an equal mixture of Acadian French, and British Emigrants. Their ordinary pursuits comprehend a tolerably extensive Lumbering, some Farming, and a limited business in the Fisheries; and from these three branches do they appear to acquire a comfortable, and in some instances, a respectable living.



*An Account of the Rivers discharging into Bathurst Harbour.*

[ There follows in Cooney's book a detailed account of the River Big Nipisiguit, the Middle River and the Tootoogoose or Fairy River. About half a mile from the entrance of the latter into the harbour was Somerset Vale, the residence of Hugh Munro, Esq., then Chief Magistrate of the County and formerly its member in the Assembly. Cooney's text continues:

A short distance in the rear of Mr. Munro's, are two excellent Quarries; one of hard durable Freestone; the other of fine blue Slate. The slate quarry appears to be very extensive, and to judge by its contexture, rather deeply laminated. Several excavations have been lately made, and from them, has the Court House, at Bathurst, been roofed. As the slate and stone are unquestionably of an excellent description, these quarries may yet become a very valuable acquisition.

About seven miles above Somerset Vale, there is a rapid cascade of nearly twenty feet elevation; and a little higher up, is a small, but respectable Scotch settlement lately commenced. The scenery here, and for a few miles towards the head of the river, presents a tolerably close resemblance to that of the Salmon Leap, a river near Leixlip, in the County of Dublin. The Tootoogoose comprises a great deal of good land, and still contains a considerable stock of white and red pine, of a good quality, but of small dimensions.

*Description of the Country from Bathurst to Dalhousie.*

For four or five miles from Bathurst, the land is rather low, and the soil, a light sandy composition, with a diffusive interspersion of marshes. In this tract, there are hardly any settlers; but from its head, to Dalhousie, a distance of nearly 50 miles, the shore is pretty thickly inhabited, chiefly by Acadian French, with an occasional insertion of Irish and Scotch emigrants.

From this to *Petit Rochè*, a village 12 miles from Bathurst, the land is much higher, and the soil considerably better; and thence, through *Belledune*, and on to the entrance of the *Restigouche*, it is a composition of dark clay and gravel, the former rather preponderating, in the structure of a fine argillaceous surface, covering a sub-formation of *Limestone, Hard Blue Rock, and Granulated Freestone.*

The shore all the way, though considerably elevated in many places, seems to shrink into insignificance, before the lofty and towering mountains of the opposite side. It is pierced by several rivers and inlets, some of which, having deep entrances, sheltered by projections, form good snug harbours; while extensive beds of kelp lying in their vicinity, provide the settlers with excellent manure.

To an extent of 5 or 6 miles back, the land is tolerably level, and well adapted for cultivation; but beyond that, it appears to be a confused mass of unequally sized mountains, apparently well timbered. Indeed, the whole interior, from a little in the rear of the North side of Bathurst Harbour, and thence North Westerly towards the *Upsalquitch*, is represented as being thickly wooded with large White Pine, intermixed with some red, and several dense ridges of Hardwood. Having exhibited this general outline of the country between Bathurst and Dalhousie; we shall now give a brief description of the rivers and settlements contained in it.

*A description of the rivers discharging into the Bay, between Bathurst and Dalhousie; and also an account of the different settlements along the shore.*

**PETERS RIVER** is an inconsiderable stream, shallow, dark, and muddy; its banks, and its bosom, alike destitute of either attractions or resources.

**LITTLE NIPISIGUIT** affords some good White Pine; is drivable for 5 or 6 miles; and contains a small Saw Mill.

**THE NICKADAW** has yielded some good lumber for the last four years; and those now working on it, report having discovered several small groves of pine, a short distance from the stream. This river has a few small branches; flows over a clear bottom; and can be driven for 7 or 8 miles.

In the vicinity of this river, is the settlement of *Petit Roche*, a long straggling village, containing 120 dwelling houses, besides a tolerably large Chapel, with an attached cemetery. Although this settlement is of nearly thirty years standing, the largest farm in it does not exceed twelve acres of half cultivated land. The people appear to content themselves with raising a little Grain and Potatoes, upon which, with whatever Fish can be procured at the shore, do they endeavour to prolong a miserable existence. All the houses, with one exception, retain their primitive purity. They are not like the painted Sepulchres of the Pharisees, for they are as dirty and dingy without, as they are filthy and polluted within. Paint has never sullied their exterior; nor has the inside been often honoured with the application of water. The furniture of each house, consists of a large stove, flanked by a couple of cradles, and embraced by a crescent of stools. Nor is the equipage a whit more distinguished for its simplicity, than the larder is for its poverty; at least, so I found it; for during an unavoidable sojourn of two days, the only delicate varieties I could procure, were potatoes and herrings; and herrings and potatoes.

The painted exception to which I have alluded, is a tavern, pompously called the *King's Arms*, from a comical daub of Royal Heraldry, vauntingly blazoned over the front door. A sort of piebald pattern embellishing the exterior, and superadded to the broken chairs, crippled tables, cracked tumblers, and headless decanters that ornament the inside, considerably dignify the Sign Board; and confer a sort of solitary grandeur upon the splendid establishment of Mr. Charles Commeaux. Although the population of *Petit Roche*, amounts to upwards of 800 souls, the greater part whereof, is below the age of puberty, the settlement has never been favoured with a school; and hence, its most prominent traits, are ignorance, superstition, and poverty.

**ELM TREE AND BELLEDUNE RIVERS.** These are tolerably large streams, which head near each other, and then, by diverging into a variety of branches, wander through an extensive tract of rich land. They have for some years back, afforded considerable quantities of timber; and each of them still contains a good supply. Between the entrances of these rivers, lies the settlement of *Belledune*, extending nearly four miles in length.

Nine years ago, and this place was a complete wilderness; not a tree had been cut—not a rood reclaimed; but now it contains twenty-one families comfortably located. When the first settlers arrived, as well as for two years afterwards, they often had to go to *Petit Roche*, or Bathurst, to obtain a single barrel of potatoes. But to exhibit in a still stronger light, the privations these poor people had to endure; as well as to shew the success that crowned their exertions; I shall relate a circumstance told to me, by the individual concerned in it.

A man named Patrick Doolan, now in comfortable circumstances, went, the first year he settled at Belledune, to *Petit Roché*, in order to get a barrel of potatoes. By the disbursement of the last shilling was the purchase made; but how to get it home, was even more difficult than to pay for it. He was twelve miles from home, and the road was bad. The load, too, was rather heavy to be shouldered; to hire a sleigh equally impossible and impolitic; and to borrow one, was a favour no stranger could expect. Reduced to this extremity, poor Doolan had no other alternative, than that of submitting to chop firewood for the Frenchman, from whom he bought the potatoes, as an equivalent for the miserable privilege of being allowed to eat them in his cabin. These people, once so poor, now enjoy comparative affluence. They not only raise their own Stock, Grain, Cattle, &c. but often supply with their surplus produce, the inhabitants of Bonaventure, and elsewhere. Thus, in 9 years, have a few poor men, encumbered with helpless families, and destitute of every thing but industry, surmounted all the disadvantages of their situation, and laid the foundation of a permanent livelihood for themselves, and a handsome competency for their children.

The acquired property of Belledune, may be estimated at nearly £2000. The settlers are all Irish Roman Catholics; and their religious zeal, backed by the liberality of others, has lately erected the frame of a Chapel, measuring 42 feet in length, and 28 in breadth.

Near the head of Belledune, there lives a French veteran, named Francis Guitar. This man was born in the Fauxbourgh Saint Antoine, in Paris; and was, when Louis XVI. was beheaded, about 19 years of age. Gui-



tar witnessed many of the sanguinary executions of that period ; and while the world was still blushing at the atrocities of Republican France, had he the happiness to be one of a troop of Dragoons, that conducted Robespierre to the guillotine. He subsequently served under Buonaparte, at *Marengo* and *Lodi* ; and after the evacuation of Italy by the Austrians, followed him into Egypt, and fought at the battle of the Pyramids.

ARMSTRONG'S BROOK, though rather an unimportant stream, contains some very good timber ; there is no lumbering on it, however, owing in a great degree, to its incapacity for driving.

JACQUET RIVER. This river proceeds from a Lake near the Little Nipisiquit ; is 45 miles long, and falls into the bay, 9 miles above Belledune. It is abundantly supplied with salmon, and flows rather impetuously, through a mountainous district, exceedingly well timbered with good white pine, and large birch.

Jacquet River possesses great facilities for both the manufacture and shipment of timber. The stream can be driven for more than 30 miles, its banks are well lined with the raw material ; and at its entrance, is a fine snug harbour, with good holding ground in 4 and 5 fathoms. Two miles from this, there is another good harbour, called Hecklar's Cove. Here, sheltered from the most prevailing winds, by Heron Island, as well as by Black Point, and several other projections, ships can load with security, and ride with safety, in six and seven fathoms.

Mr. Doyle, a gentleman residing near the entrance of this river, settled there in the year 1790, at which time, as well as for several years afterwards, was he the only settler between Bathurst and Dalhousie. He served in the Revolutionary War, and was, in 1781, a Sergeant in the 31st foot, then stationed in Quebec. In the course of this year, and at a time when Mr. Doyle was performing guard at the Chateau, Mr. Munro, of Toogoose, with other American loyalists, arrived there, and were presented to the Governor, by Captain Israel Pritchard, then serving in the Queen's Rangers, and now residing at New Richmond, in Gaspè district.

During the first 6 or 8 years of Mr. Doyle's residence at Jacquet River, he sustained considerable injury from the frequent predatory visits of the Indians. They repeatedly robbed him of his cattle ; destroyed his crops, and even threatened to murder him. His judicious conduct, however, overcame their malignity ; by tempering conciliation with firmness, he succeeded in propitiating the well disposed, and in intimidating the rest.

RIVER CHARLES AND RIVER BENJAMIN, are both considerable streams ; and although they have long been the field of rather an extensive lumbering, no very sensible diminution of their stock is discernible.

THE LOUISON is a small river, distinguished by no particular feature, except a scanty supply of red pine, birch and maple. All the timber manufactured on these rivers, is shipped at either Hecklar's Cove or Jacquet harbour.

NEW MILLS, formerly MALAGASH, was originally settled by a Dutch merchant, named Rampoit, who for several years, carried on an extensive business in ship building, and the Cod fishery. This establishment, the most valuable on the south shore of the Bay, has been considerably improved by its present proprietor, William Fleming, Esq. Here has this gentleman lately created a Saw Mill, and a Grist Mill ; both large, well constructed, and eligibly seated. Besides two pairs of stones revolving on one axle, and adapted for grinding wheat and oats, the Grist Mill has also an excellent machine for manufacturing Pot Barley. In front of the Mills, there is a good harbour, formed by Black Point on the S. E. ; and Heron Island, with a cluster of small ones, on the N. and N. W. Here there is a beautiful Cod and Herring Fishery, besides good shelter, and safe anchorage in 4 and 5 fathoms.

New Mills, is the general name, by which a district of nearly 5 miles long is distinguished. The people residing in the immediate vicinity of the harbour, are principally Scotch emigrants, from the Island of Arran. Prudence and industry characterize their habits ; their attachment to their country, as well as fidelity to their religion, is amiably manifested in their strenuous exertions for the erection of a Presbyterian Church.

[With reference to the Scottish settlers at New Mills the "HISTORY OF THE CHARLO, NEW MILLS AND JACQUET RIVER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA" states:

"...the first Scottish family in the New Mills area was that of James MacPherson from Nainshire. The MacPhersons, with four sons and two daughters (another daughter was born later) landed at White's Cove in June 1819 and spent the first winter in a cellar they had dug; in the following year they constructed a log cabin over it. For some years they had no close neighbours.."

Other pioneer families named in the above HISTORY were CALDWELL, DICKIE, DUTCH, MAXWELL, ARCHIBALD, FLEMING, MacNAIR.

In 1864 William MacPherson of Port Daniel dictated a family history to his son and in it he stated that he had moved from Restigouche to Port Daniel in 1836.]

**EEL RIVER.** This is a long, but shallow river, of rather a sluggish cast. It rises near the Big Belledune; flows tardily through a rich woodland country; and escapes into the Bay, 4 miles S. E. of Dalhousie. Eel River has long been the source of an abundant supply of good timber; and some lumberers who have lately explored it, are of opinion, that it will for many years, continue to afford its usual quantum. The settlement about its entrance, and those for a couple of miles on either side thereof, derive their name from the river. These comprise a small wooden Chapel, with 30 dwelling

houses, occupied by as many families, consisting of Acadians and Scotch emigrants. The chapel is visited by the Missionary from Bathurst; and the timber is shipped at the Port of Dalhousie.

From here to the entrance of the Restigouche, the shore is a continuation of almost perpendicular cliffs, towering nearly 100 feet above the level of the sea.— But notwithstanding so unfavourable a character, this rocky and Iron-bound shore, possesses both attractions and resources. A valuable fishery, washing its base, sends tribute to it upon every wave; and a tolerably extensive dispersion of friable loam, qualifies the sterility of its surface, by covering it with a soil. Nor is its appearance so destitute of beauty, as a stranger would be inclined to suppose; for a neat French house occupying a position at its bottom, and Belleview, the romantic little villa of Perry Dumaresq, Esq. cresting its summit, at once chequer the monotony, and sooth the wildness of its aspect.

#### *Description of Dalhousie Harbour, and Restigouche River.*

THE RESTIGOUCHE, OR BIG RIVER, so called in contradistinction to the Miramichi, a somewhat smaller one, is the principal river in the County of Gloucester. It rises near Taumisquatic Lake, a large and beautiful pond supplying the Madawaska; is supposed to be more than 220 miles long; describes a general course of E. N. E.; is cherished by numerous appendant streams; and rolls through a large and commodious harbour, into the head of *La Baie des Chaleurs*, in conjunction with which, it forms the separating line between Lower Canada, and New Brunswick. As the settlements and principal local characteristics of this river, lie within 70 miles of its entrance, we shall commence our description at the latter, and thence proceed towards its source.

The entrance of the Restigouche is about 3 miles wide, and is formed by two higher promontories of Red Sandstone:—the one on the North side, is called Point Magashua; that on the South, Bon Amie's Rock. This opening is bold, and finely developed; is accessible in



all weathers ; is not encumbered by a single Bar or Shoal ; and contains upwards of 9 fathoms of water.

On the South side, two miles above the entrance, is the town of Dalhousie, consisting of a few houses, and two or three mercantile establishments, of which the most extensive, is that of Messrs. Hugh and John Montgomery. The scite of this town is a level eminence, and between it, and two small, but elevated Islands in front, a good broad channel of 6 or 7 fathoms in depth, flowing towards the town, forms a fine safe harbour, where vessels may load within a quarter of a mile of the shore. The North, or main channel, commences between the Islands and Magashua, and flowing over a soft bottom, runs a W. S. W. course for 18 miles, carrying to that extent, a good traversable breadth, varying from 8 to 4 fathoms in depth. Here, after bathing the bed of a projection, it branches into two passages, which, though narrow, are 3 miles long, and contain from 14 to 16 feet at low water. Four miles above this, whither the tide flows, the river is upwards of a mile wide ; and from thence, to within 40 miles of its source, is it navigable for light canoes.

Thus, the Restigouche, independently of its great agricultural and commercial resources, is eminently distinguished by two important maritime features, namely, it is in some degree, navigable for 180 miles from its entrance ; and it contains a safe and commodious harbour, 18 miles long, 2 miles wide, and more than sufficiently deep for the *largest* class of British merchant men. At first view, the country, on both sides of this river, and all 'round it, even to the utmost verge of observation, presents an appearance exceedingly grand and impressive. Whatever way the eye wanders, before it lies a seemingly interminable region of huge and lofty mountains. Nothing is to be seen but an almost immeasurable dispersion of gigantic hills, apparently rolling in every direction, and breathing through an almost infinite number of Lakes and Rivers, Glens and Valleys. Of these mountains, some are elegantly flowered with tall pines ; others sustain a fine growth of hardwood ; many have a swampy summit, and several terminate in rich meadows and plains. Some of them are conically formed ; many exhibit considerable rotundity ; some are lank and attenuated, and others there are, whose figure and construction I confess myself unable to describe.

Descending from generals to particulars, let us now take a closer view of this magnificent river. In a brief historical sketch of Gaspè, contained in the fourth part of this book, the reader will find a detailed account of an action, that took place between the French and English, on the Restigouche. We shall now notice the particular places, more intimately connected with this transaction.

As well to remove all doubt, concerning what I have advanced on this subject, as to obtain credit for what I am about to relate, it may be necessary to inform the reader, that I obtained the particulars from a demi-official account, published in the Monthly Chronology, of a Periodical Paper, entitled "*The London Magazine, or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer.*" Of this demi-official account, the following is an exact copy *verbatim et literatim*.

" London, August 30, 1760.

" ADMIRALTY OFFICE.—By a letter dated the 2nd inst. at Halifax, from Captain Allen, commander of his Majesty's ship the *Repulse*, it appears, that upon intelligence received from the Governor of Louisburgh, of some French ships of war, and store ships, with troops and stores on board, being in Chaleur Bay, in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, Captain Byron, in His Majesty's Ship the *Fame*, proceeded with several of His Majesty's ships in quest of them, and finding them in the said Bay, the *Fame*, *Repulse*, and *Scarborough*, after much difficulty got up, and on the 8th of July, destroyed the whole, consisting of Three Frigates, viz : the *Marchault*, the *Bienfaisant*, the *Marquis de Marloze*, and another ; besides Twenty two Schooners, Sloops, and small Privateers, with a great quantity of provision and stores." " A more circumstantial account is daily expected from Captain Byron, who had sent Lieutenant Lord Rutherford, with his despatches, by way of New York." Of this account, the subjoined is a literal transcript.

" London, 8th September, 1760."

By despatches received from Captain Byron, Senior officer of His Britannic Majesty's Ships at Louisburgh, and dated 26th of July, it appears that Captain B. upon receiving intelligence from Brigadier General Whitmore, that a French fleet had sailed up Chaleur Bay, proceeded with the *Fame*, *Dorsetshire*, *Achilles*, *Scarborough*, and *Repulse*, in quest of them. Having destroyed one French

Ship, *La Catharina*, in Gaspé Bay, Captain Byron proceeded to a large river, called by the Indians, *Rustigushi*. Here he found the remainder, consisting of the *Marchault* of 32 guns; the *Esperance* of 30; the *Bienfaisant* of 22; and the *Marquis de Marloze* of 18; together with twenty two sloops, and small vessels. "When our fleet appeared off the *Rustigushi* harbour, the enemy proceeded up the river, and anchored above two batteries, mounted on the North side of it. These being but indifferently served, were soon silenced; and the ships, after a short resistance, were all sunk or taken. Captain Byron then destroyed the town of *Petit Rochelle*, containing upwards of 200 houses; and also both of the batteries."

The Magazine from which I obtained these extracts, I borrowed from Mr. Joseph Spratt, of Chatham, neither of us, knowing at the time, that it contained such information.

#### *Particular localities distinguishing Restigouche River.*

On the South side, 8 miles above the entrance, is *Point Ainimpk*, a considerable elevation, which, as its name implies, was formerly a reconnoitering post with the Indians. In the vicinity of this point, are unequivocal indications of an extensive coal mine.

**POINT LE GUARD**, on the North side, is nearly 12 miles from the entrance. It is a bluff high projection, nearly perpendicular, and was formerly occupied by the French, as a military station. This point commands a fine view of the entrance of the harbour; and is said to have been the site of a large fort, destroyed by the British squadron, under Captain Byron.

Two miles higher up, on the same side, is *Battery Point*, so called from a garrison having occupied it during the old French war. This is a bold rocky promontory, probably 80 feet high, having on its summit, a tolerably extensive plain, and at its base, a fine deep channel, containing from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 fathoms.

A few years ago, several large pieces of ordnance that had been sunk near the bottom of this point, were removed by some of the inhabitants, and by them, converted to various culinary purposes. Some guns are still lying there, and near the Beach, about 26 years ago, did Mr. Busteed, the present proprietor, find a large

copper stew pan, of French construction, lying mouth downwards, and under it, a bottle of molasses. The pan has been in constant use ever since; and to judge from its present healthy appearance, is likely to survive 26 years more. Among other articles, said to have been found at this point, a pair of duelling pistols, a handsome regulation sword, and a small case of wine, are enumerated. Here, at the edge of the channel, and visible at low water, are the remains of two French vessels, part of the fleet destroyed by Byron.

A little above the Battery Point, is the mercantile establishment of Dean & Aitkin, the first and the last house that I visited in Canada. I mention this circumstance to afford myself an opportunity of tendering my grateful acknowledgements to the kind and hospitable proprietors. This house, and that of Mr. Peter Sutherland, lately established a short distance from it, are the only resident merchants on the North side of the river. — Four miles above this, is *Point Pleasant*, the residence of Edward J. Man, Esq. To the propriety of this name, I cordially render my assent; for during a residence of 14 days, I found it to be *Point Pleasant*, indeed. From every member of Mr. Man's amiable family, did I receive the most polite attention; and to him and his son am I deeply indebted, for much of the information contained in this book. At the edge of the channel, opposite to Mr. Man's, are the remains of another sunken vessel, from which some of the oaken timbers, some cutlasses, and other things, have been extracted.

On the South side, nearly opposite to *Point Pleasant*, is another projection called *Martin's Point*, formerly a French village, and now ornamented by a handsome Presbyterian Church, lately erected by the mutual exertions of the inhabitants of both sides of the river. Through this point flows a tolerably large stream, on which, the present proprietor, Robert Ferguson, Esq. has a very good Saw Mill and Grist Mill.

A short distance above this, is the establishment of Messrs. Adams, about a mile in the rear of which, is a large mountain, called from its conical form, the sugar loaf. It rises about 700 feet above the level of the plain, is composed of a spiral mass of Granite, clothed with secondary formation, and is, at its base, from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 miles in circumference. This mountain is inaccessible



on all sides, except the East, where it can be ascended by a rude, but natural flight of steps, formed by several projections. A mile and a half in the rear of this mountain is a beautiful Lake, abundantly stocked with large red trout, and surrounded by a level plain well clothed with hardwood.

*Particular localities distinguishing the Restigouche.*

Directly opposite, on the other side of the river, is Mission Point, an exceedingly rich tract of land, comprising upwards of 1,200 acres, and owned by the MICMACS, to Two Hundred of whom, it affords a permanent residence. This settlement consists of a Chapel, capable of containing 300 persons, together with a Mission House, a Burying ground, and 24 dwelling houses. The houses are constructed of logs, covered with shingles or boards; they are all provided with chimneys and stoves; and some of them have even chairs, bedsteads, tables, and similar other conveniences.

Most of the householders own Live Stock, consisting of oxen, cows, swine, &c. some of them have houses; one of them owns a small schooner of 25 tons; and others have small Fishing Boats.

The Indians residing here, are generally moral in their deportment, and industrious in their habits. They demean themselves soberly and peaceably, contributing much to their own respectability and comfort, by annually raising a small stock of Indian corn, beans, potatoes, &c. The R. C. Missionary residing at Carleton, is their spiritual director; he visits them twice a year, remaining a month each time; and for these services, is paid by a legislative grant from Canada. The Mission House and the Chapel were built exclusively by the Indians.

Mission Point is a very eligible site for a small town, and would, if granted for that purpose, be soon occupied. The rear might be profitably disposed in garden lots, and the front in building ones. The Highlands are more than a mile and a half back, and are abundantly stocked with black birch, and several varieties of firewood; and a good channel for a vessel of two hundred tons, winds close into the beach, while a contiguous flat, or middle ground, provides an excellent Salmon Fishery.

Of these advantages, and of the end to which they might be applied, Lord Dalhousie seemed to be aware, when he offered the Indians £600, and twice as much land elsewhere, if they would resign their title.

Nearly opposite to this Point, and a little above it, are the remains of two vessels, both visible at low water. These are supposed to have been the *Bienfaisant*, and the *Marquis de Marloze*; and from the one conjectured to have been the former, were a set of rudder irons lately recovered, which were used I believe, in the re-equipment of the Gordon Castle, a vessel belonging to Mr. Ferguson.

Three miles above this, is *Point au Bourdo*, the scite of that *Petit Rochelle*, which Byron destroyed in the summer of 1760. It was called by the Indians, *Kaatoukong*, or Grind Stone point, to signify the quality of the red sandstone mountains, with which its vicinity abounds. Its present name is derived from the sepulture of Monsieur Bourdo, the officer who commanded the Marchault, and who was killed in the action, and buried here.

Here, along the shore; and at the foot of the mountains, cellar walls, foundations of houses, and other memorials of an old and extensive settlement, are visible. Here also, have gun barrels, old guns, gun locks, bayonets, &c. been occasionally discovered. Mr. Busted, the owner of Battery Point, is also the proprietor of this; and three or four years ago, did a servant of his, while ploughing some land, a short distance from where a service of China, had been previously dug up, find a four pronged silver fork, and a silver table spoon, both marked with the letters G. M. D. At the West end of this point, is also the hull of a vessel, from which handgrenades, small bomb shells, and some other projectiles have been occasionally taken.

A little above the point is a small stream, called officers creek; it is a romantic little spot; and from some fashionable articles found about the ruins of a house in the neighborhood; it may be inferred, that it was once the residence of a person of some distinction. Near this is also a set of launch ways, which must have been used by the French, in the construction of a tolerably large vessel. Several pieces of cannon have also been found

here ; and one of them, a 12 pounder, I think, Mr. Busted has lately inserted in the back of a new fire place. Mr. Man, of Point Pleasant, has also an elegant parlour stove, made from a carronade of the same calibre. This conversion of instruments of death, into means of promoting human comfort, is analogous to O'Leary's description of the benificent fruits of religious toleration. "The stake," says that eloquent writer, "which formerly burned the heretic, now cooks a dinner for him."

Opposite to Mission Point, is Athol House, the residence of Robert Ferguson, Esq. whose Lady I believe, can claim the distinction of being the first child born of English parents on the Restigouche. A little above Mr. Ferguson's, is Bob's Point, formerly the scite of an Indian village.

From Robin Gray's book, a small stream discharging round the West end of this Point, there is a portage of 22 miles leading towards the head of the Upsalquitch. It runs through remarkably fine land, revealing an extensive plain, well covered with hardwood. This portage was opened by a few lumberers in 1827, and although not in a very good state at present, it might, by a moderate outlay, be made a permanent and useful line of communication. What recommends this road to a share of public attention is ; it has a good firm bottom ; requires no bridges ; has a few settlers already on it ; and has a tendency to connect the main river with one of its principal branches.

#### *Great Post Road to Quebec.*

Little more than a mile above Point au Bourdo, and about 24 from Dalhousie, the contemplated Post Road to Quebec, enters the forest. It runs a straight line of ten miles into the interior, and thence pursues a W. N. W. course, crossing the heads of two or three branches of the Matepediac River ; and winding round the East side of the Matepediac Lake, thence through Metisc, and up to Quebec. From Quebec to the South side of Matepediac Lake, a distance of probably 230 miles, a good road has been long established ; and from thence to the Restigouche, is little more than 60.

This continuation will be carried through a comparatively level tract of country, possessing the important requisites of a good soil ; and a fine hard bottom. Some are of opinion, that in order to facilitate the settlement

of the Matepediac, the road should be carried along its banks ; but it ought to be remembered, that in that case, the expence would be much more, while the distance would be considerably longer, and the land greatly inferior. A direct line of communication considered, independently of all other speculative or contingent acquisitions, I think the present route, the best that could have been selected.

It is confidently expected that this road will be completed against the Fall of 1833, a period, to which the inhabitants of the *Baie des Chaleurs*, may look forward, as to the date of their admission, to an unrestrained intercourse with the capital of the Canadas. Among other advantages, its completion will open a new vien for the circulation of the resources of Gaspe, a country, of which the Canadian government know as much, as they do of the interior of Cochin China, or the heart of Central Africa.

For six miles above the head of the tide, the river is beautifully spangled with 21 or 22 small Islands, which standing in Bass-Relief with the surrounding mountains, form a soothing contrast, involving the most delightful and romantic scenery. Most of these Islands are covered with a luxuriant growth of Elm and Maple, interspersed with poplar and balm of gilend trees, the latter exhaling a rich fragrance that perfumes the atmosphere for several miles. These Islands afford a fine pasturage, and would, if cultivated, be excellent meadow land. Two of them have been granted ; and the remainder, being a sort of Commons or unclaimed property, are usually occupied by the Indians, as sugaries. —Although the process for manufacturing maple sugar, is extremely simple, and consequently a familiar branch of domestic science in the colonies, it may not be out of order to allude to it here. The tree should be tapped about the first of April, when the juice, though sweet, is nearly as thin as water. The sap should be received in clear bark dishes ; and then boiled into a thin syrup. It is afterwards to be strained through flannel ; and reboiled to the consistency of sugar. It should then be put into large bark, or wooden moulds ; and left in them till it cools. This ends the process ; for shortly after, the liquid becomes cold, and acquires a hardness and transparency, something like English refined sugar. — In this colony, the maple is generally tapped with an axe ; nor is the incision ever closed after the tree is ex-



hausted ; but in the United States, where great solicitude is bestowed on Maple Groves, the tree is bored with an augur, and after the sap is extracted, the aperture is hermetically sealed.

At the head of this Archipelago, on the North side, falls in the *Matepediac*, or Musical River, so called in consequence of the peculiar intonations, occasioned by the passage of the wind, through the trees that cover, and down the numerous ravines that cleave its banks.— This river proceeds from Matepediac Lake, in the county of Cornwallis, in Lower Canada ; is more than sixty miles long ; and receives several tributaries, the largest of which are the *Casupscoult*, and the *Kassimiguagan*. It flows very rapidly over a rocky bed, lying between two great chains of mountains ; and is the principal branch of the Restigouche, on the Canadian side. In addition to the common character of all the Restigouche rivers, namely that of being well supplied with good timber, the Matepediac is eminently distinguished for a peculiarly fine growth of long straight white pine.

The land for about 4 miles above, and the same distance below the débouchure of this river, is exceedingly mountainous ; and composed, apparently, of deeply laminated strata of *Black Flag*, and *Mica Slate*.

Six miles above this, on the South, or New Brunswick side, it receives the *Upsalquitch*, or Lesser River, rising near the *Nipisiguit* Lakes, and flowing with considerable violence, through a broken, but densely wooded country. This river, like the *Tobique*, and great *Nipisiguit*, contains a great deal of large Red Pine in the vicinity of its source, and about the heads of its branches ; but thence downwards, towards its entrance, the principal growth is white pine. Near the entrance of the *Upsalquitch*, is Green Stone Mountain, an enormously huge pile, so called from the complexion of the hard rocky substance, of which it is composed. This mountain, probably, is 1,500 feet high, and from some specimens of slate shewn to me ; and said to have been extracted from it, I am disposed to believe that it contains an extensive quarry.

Of a variety of other subordinate rivers discharging into the Restigouche, the *Petomkeguick*, the *Petawigaa*, and the *Pidabidjau*, are the most considerable. Many of these tributaries are supplied by others ; and both principals and subservients are well timbered.

That the Restigouche, has, by the impetuosity of its career, forced its way through the great chain of mountains extending from the Saint Lawrence, towards the South, appearances induce me to believe. From a short distance above the *Upsalquitch*, for a considerable way up the river, there are palpable evidences of the fact. While the high lands on each side of the river, correspond in soil, formation, and general appearance, they also retain the traces of a violent partition. On the North, the land is, in some places, indented with fissures and cavities, with which the opposite protuberances correspond ; and in other places, there is a juxtaposition of concave and convex appearances perfectly harmonizing.

The Grand River, a stream discharging into the Saint John, about 18 miles above the Grand Falls, is connected with one of the South branches of this river, by a good portage of 8 miles ; while the Green River, and the Madawaska, also tributaries of the Saint John, are likewise united to it by similar routes, leading from each to the main stream. As every part of this extensive river, is abundantly supplied with all varieties of timber for exportation ; and as but a small quantity has hitherto been made on it ; it may be regarded as the source of a very great supply for many years to come.

The settlers on the Restigouche, comprising about 90 families, consisting of Scotch emigrants, and American loyalists, are but thinly dispersed along the tide way, none having yet penetrated above that, or up any of the branches.

While pursuing my enquiries on this delightful river, for me every door was open, and every table spread ; nor can I now close my feeble description of it, without assuring its inhabitants, that of the kindness and favour I received from them, I shall always retain a lively and grateful recollection.

## THE GREAT MIRAMICHI FIRE -1825

The year following the arrival in Canada and the Miramichi of Robert Cooney was memorable for the great fire that devastated the region. The effects were far-reaching. Settlers in Gaspesia were aware of the magnitude of the fire from the great clouds of smoke that clouded Bay Chaleur. Ash from the fire fell as far away as Restigouche. Here, in Cooney's own words, is his impression of that terrible time:

The summer of 1825, was unusually warm in both hemispheres, particularly in America, where its effects were fatally visible, in the prevalence of epidemical disorders. During July and August, extensive fires raged in different parts of Nova Scotia, especially in the eastern division of the Peninsula, but the country being generally cleared for a considerable distance round the settlements and villages, little injury was sustained.

In Miramichi, and throughout the northern part of New Brunswick, the season had been remarkably dry; scarcely any rain had fallen; and considerable apprehensions were entertained for the crops. Very extensive fires were observed in a north westerly direction; along the south side of the Baie des Chaleurs; in several parts of the District of Gaspé; in the neighborhood of Richibucto, and thence in a southerly direction towards Westmoreland.

These fires, however, being rather ordinary circumstances, as burning the trees and roots is the common system of clearing land, no danger was anticipated.

But however reluctant I feel to scatter tears over our history, I shall no longer seek an evasion, by dwelling on preliminaries.

From the first to the fifth of October, 1825, a season generally very cool, an extraordinary and unnatural heat

prevailed. The protracted drought of the summer, acting upon the aridity of the forests, had rendered them more than naturally combustible; and this facilitating both the dispersion and the progress of the fires that appeared in the early part of the season, produced the unusual warmth.

On the sixth, the fire was evidently approximating to us; at different intervals of this day, fitful blazes and flashes were observed to issue from different parts of the woods, particularly up the north west, at the rear of Newcastle, in the vicinity of Douglastown and Moorfields; and along the banks of the Bartibog. Many also heard the crackling of falling trees and shrivelled branches; while a hoarse rumbling noise, not unlike the rushing of distant thunder, and divided by pauses, like the intermittent discharges of artillery, was distinct and audible.

On the seventh the heat increased to such a degree, and became so very oppressive, that many complained of its enervating effects. About 12 o'clock, a pale sickly mist, lightly tinged with purple, emerged from the forest, and settled over it. This cloud soon retreated before a large dark one, which occupying its place, wrapt the firmament in a pall of vapour. This incumbrance, retaining its position, till about three o'clock, the heat became tormentingly sultry. There was not a single breath of air. The atmosphere was overloaded;—an irresistible lassitude seized the people; and a stupifying dullness seemed to pervade every place but the woods which now trembled, and rustled, and shook, with an incessant and thrilling noise of explosions rapidly following each other, and mingling their reports with a discordant variety of loud and boisterous sounds.

At this time, the whole country appeared to be encircled by a *Fiery Zone*, which gradually contracting its circle by the devastation it made, seemed as if it would not converge into a point while any thing remained to be destroyed.

A little after four o'clock, an immense pillar of smoke rose in a vertical direction at some distance N. W. of Newcastle, for a while, and the sky was absolutely blackened by this huge cloud; but a light northerly breeze springing up, it gradually distended, and then



melted into a variety of shapeless mists. About an hour after, or probably at half-past 5 o'clock, innumerable large spires of smoke, issuing from different parts of the woods, and illuminated by flames, that seemed to pierce them, mounted to the sky. A heavy and suffocating canopy, extending to the utmost verge of observation, and appearing more terrific, by the vivid flashes and blazes that wriggled and darted irregularly through it, now hung over us in threatening suspension, while showers of flaming brands, calcined leaves, ashes and cinders, seemed to scream through the growling noise that prevailed in the woods.

All these palpable indications of the approaching ruin were unheeded, probably, because the people had never yet experienced the dreadful effects of fire, or had not sufficiently considered the change, wrought in the forests, by the protracted heat of the summer. Nor could any other reasons have betrayed them into a neglect of the warning, which Mr. Wright and others endeavoured to propagate. Had the timely admonition of these gentlemen, received the attention it merited, many are of opinion, that a considerable part of the calamity might have been averted. It would be cruel, however, to harrow the recollection now; experience makes wise men of us all; after having endured evils, we become astonishingly clever in prescribing antidotes.

About 9 o'clock, or shortly after, a succession of loud and appalling roars thundered through the woods. Peal after peal, crash after crash, came bellowing the sentence of destruction. Every succeeding shock created fresh alarm; every clap came loaded with its own destructive energy. With greedy rapidity did they advance to the devoted scene of their ministry; nothing could impede their progress; they removed every obstacle by the desolation they occasioned. Several hundred miles of prostrate forests and smitten woods marked their devastating way.

They came rushing with awful violence, devouring at every step, and hewing a frightful avenue to the spot where their fury was to be consummated:

The tremendous bellowing became more and more terrific. The earth seemed to stagger as if it had reeled from its ancient foundations. The harmony of crea-

tion appeared to have been deranged; and about to revert into original chaos. Earth, Air, Sea, and Sky; all visible creation seemed to conspire against man; and to totter under the weight of some dreadful commission they were charged to execute. The river, tortured into violence by the hurricane, foamed with rage, and flung its boiling spray upon the land. The thunder pealed along the vault of Heaven; the lightning rent the firmament in pieces. For a moment, and all was still, a deep and awful silence reigned over every thing. All nature appeared to be hushed into dumbness;—when—suddenly a lengthened and sullen roar came booming through the forest, and driving a thousand massive and devouring flames before it. Then Newcastle, and Douglstown, and the whole Northern side of the river, extending from Bartibog to the Naushwank, a distance of more than 100 miles in length, became enveloped in an immense sheet of flame, that spread over nearly 6,000 square miles.

That the stranger may form a faint idea of the desolation and misery no pen can describe, he must picture to himself a large and rapid river, thickly settled for 100 miles, or more, on both sides of it. He must also fancy four thriving towns, two on each side of this river; and then reflect, that these towns and settlements were all composed of wooden houses, stores, stables, and barns; that these barns and stables were filled with the crops; and that the arrival of the fall importations had stocked the warehouses and stores, with spirits, powder, and a variety of combustible articles, as well as with the necessary supplies for the approaching winter. He must then remember, that the cultivated, or settled part of the river, is but a long narrow stripe, about a quarter of a mile wide, and lying between the river, and almost interminable forests, stretching along the very edge of its precincts; and all round it. Extending his conception, he will see these forests thickly expanding over more than 6,000 square miles, and absolutely parched into tinder by the protracted heat of a long summer, and by the large fires that had streamed through almost every part of them. Let him then animate the picture by scattering countless tribes of wild animals; hundreds of domestic ones; and even thousands of men through the interstices. Having done all this, he will have before him, a feeble description of the extent, features, and general circumstances of the country, which, on the night I have mentioned, was suddenly buried in fire.

What shall we say of the inconceivably awful and terrific scene that now presented itself? Who shall attempt to describe the condition of a country, tortured and agonised by a hurricane, on every blast of which a messenger of vengeance seemed to ride. Unpardonably vain would that man be—exceedingly high should he stand in his own esteem, who would for a moment, think himself capable of describing the situation of a country, overwhelmed by a conflagration, whose every blast resembled the emissions of hell, and whose every billow appeared to sustain a demon.

What eye can follow the impetuous course of a raging and consuming fire, sweeping over forests, towns, villages, and hamlets, rooting up trees, ploughing the earth, and destroying every thing.

What shall we say of the tremendous howling of the storm, dashing broken and burning trees, scorching sand, and flaming houses through the air. What of the boiling surges of the river and its different tributaries, flinging their maddened foam all around them, and smashing every thing that came within their fury. What of the indescribable confusion on board of 150 large vessels imminently exposed to danger; many of them frequently on fire; some burning, and others burned.

It is painful to dwell on the agonized feelings and indescribable terrors of the wretched and miserable inhabitants. But painful however, as such a task would be, to overcome the aversion, is not half so difficult, as to acquire the competency. Even now, the shrieks, screams, and cries, of a wretched and beggared people, involved in ruin, desolation and despair, ring their mournful cadences upon the ear. Oh God! merciful and just, how shuddering were the frantic cries, the wild expressions of horror, and the despairing groans of hundreds upon hundreds of poor houseless creatures, flying from their smoking habitations, they knew not whither; and mingling the thrilling echoes of their anguish, with the yells, roarings, and bellowings, of wild beasts, and domestic animals, perishing by fire and suffocation.

Who can gauge the misery, or estimate the agony of poor industrious people suddenly stript of their all: and exposed, almost without a hope, to the dreadful

alternative, of being either consumed by fire, or famished by hunger. What tongue can express the intensity of anguish; what mind can contemplate the poignancy of that sorrow, which must have wrung the bursting hearts of men, and women, running half naked; and in wild disorder, deploring their loss, and anticipating their end. Of children looking for their parents; parents looking for their children; and mothers encumbered with their infants, urging their way through lakes of fire, and volumes of smoke.

The more I endeavour to contemplate this awful dispensation, the more convinced am I of my inadequacy to do so. When I strive to raise my mind to a full consideration of it, its overwhelming magnitude crushes the attempt. Every step I make to approach it; the farther am I flung from it; and the more intensely I strain my aching eyes to observe it, the less I see of it, for its multiplied and various horrors intervening between the vision and the picture, wrap the whole in impenetrable gloom.

Resting on the indulgence of those who have been kind enough to patronize this work, I may not be improper to state, that I was, at the time of the "GREAT FIRE," residing within a mile of Newcastle. If my opinion be entitled to any consideration, this is its candid expression.—A greater calamity, than the Fire, which happened in Miramichi, never befell any forest country, and has been rarely excelled in the annals of any other; and the general character of the scene was such, that all it required, to complete a picture of the GENERAL JUDGMENT, was the blast of a TRUMPET, the voice of the ARCHANGEL, and the resurrection of the DEAD.



THE SWEEP OF TIME

When Robert Cooney wrote and published his "COMPENDIOUS HISTORY" some two hundred years had passed since Jacques Cartier had sailed the waters of Bay Chaleur. Today, we look back on the publication of Cooney's volume of some 150 years ago to find it descriptive of an era long past. We are thus reminded of the vast sweep of time related to settlement, other than aboriginal, along the shores of Bay Chaleur.

It will be remiss if the elaborate celebrations planned for 1984 fail to recall and honour the host of pioneers who, since 1534, wrested their Bay Chaleur settlements from the wilderness and established the communities that today are home to thousands of their descendents about the Bay.