

a native of Fort Kent, of French parentage and thoroughly acquainted with the language and institutions of his people. Under his management the school has been a marked success and has greatly benefited the youth of this vicinity. Much of the success of the school is also due to the efficient work of Miss Nowland, the accomplished assistant teacher, who possesses superior qualifications as a teacher and is wholly devoted to the good of her pupils. In company with Major Dickey, to whose efforts the school is largely indebted, we recently spent a half day in this school and were much pleased with the methods of instruction and the advancement made by the pupils. We were pleased to see that the stars and stripes float over the building and that the pupils are taught that they are American citizens.

The town of Fort Kent includes the most of the two townships of 18, Range 6 and 18, Range 7, and has the St. John River for its entire northern boundary. There is much good farming land in the town and this is being cleared and brought under cultivation. With the exception of the village almost the entire population of the town are of French descent, and of the Roman Catholic faith. Much interest in education is now being taken by the French citizens and a marked improvement is noticed. The population of the town in 1890 was 1826.

UPPER ST. JOHN RIVER COUNTRY

In the northern part of Aroostook County is a large French population, a part of whom are descendants of the old Acadian refugees and a large portion emigrants from Canada and their descendants. These people, though American citizens and constituting a portion of the permanent population of the State, are, nevertheless, in many respects a distinct and separate community and will remain so to a great degree for many years to come.

The Scandinavian colonists of Aroostook have been in the County twenty years, and a stranger now riding through New Sweden will see very little to remind him that the town was settled by a foreign colony and another generation will find this people wholly Americanized and merged into the general, homogeneous mass of the population of this section. This is accounted for from the fact that the Swedes are of kindred blood with us and, in common with us, are members of the old Anglo Saxon stock.

With the French it is entirely different. They are not only of another nationality and with language, manners, customs and traditions different from ours, but they are of a different race also. They are of the Latin race which is not readily grafted upon Anglo-Saxon stock and hence they are not readily merged into the general mass of the population of this region. There are of course instances more or less frequent of intermarriage between the French and native Americans and in some cases the distinctive characteristics seem in a great measure to disappear in the next generation, but as a rule the lines of race are as distinctly marked amid the general population of the County as are the lines of the Gulf Stream in the midst of the waters of the Atlantic.

For many years the French have been inhabitants of Canada, but they are still a separate people and the Anglo-Saxons have not as yet been able to absorb them into a common nationality. The manners, customs, traditions, dress and language of the people along the St. Lawrence are still largely those of France, rather than of England or America, and such they will continue for many years. So when we reach the banks of the beautiful St. John in the northern part of Aroostook County, we can in many places readily imagine ourselves in a foreign country. It is true a considerable change has taken place in the last ten years even, in regard to the conveyances, the agricultural implements and the methods of farming among this people and many American ideas and customs have been accepted. Schools in which the English language is taught and the literature of our country introduced to a certain extent are having their influence, and some idea of the fact that they are a part of the State of Maine and of the United States is beginning to make itself manifest especially among the younger portion of the population. Notwithstanding this, the old traditions remain and the institutions and religious ceremonies of Catholic France still exert a controlling influence among this people. With them the New England Thanksgiving day is almost unknown, and Christmas is not the "Merry Christmas" that we enjoy. Their holidays are distinct from ours to a great extent. New Year's day is particularly a day of feasting and merriment, while "Mardi gras" is the chief holiday of the year. Others there are but they are those handed down in the traditions of the Catholic Church and of foreign lands and have little to do with our distinctive American institutions. Fourth of July is little of thought of among this people and it will be long before Concord and Bun-

ker Hill, or even Gettysburg and Appomattox will have much significance in the minds of our French fellow citizens. These remarks are made in no disparaging sense, nor with the least intention of unkind or adverse criticism upon this interesting and kindhearted people. They are simply introduced to note the difference between separate national characteristics and the difficulty of ready amalgamation between the Latin and Anglo-Saxon races.

The people of Madawaska, as this whole upper country settled by the French is called, are a simple minded, light hearted, pleasure-loving class, of kindly and most hospitable manners and peaceable and law-abiding in their general deportment. Their tastes are simple and their wants comparatively few and apparently easy to be supplied. They are a peculiarly social people and love to assemble in large numbers for the enjoyment of their innocent pastimes, or for the celebration of their religious *fetes*. Music and dancing have great charms for them and they are naturally pleased with gay colors both in dress and in the pictures with which they love to adorn their houses. Their diet is simple and they are in no way given to extravagance in the matter of food and drink. Though apparently caring only for the needs and pleasures of the passing hour, yet many of them have snug little sums, largely in specie, safely stowed away in some old chest or other chosen repository, to be drawn upon only in case of actual emergency. In their intercourse with strangers they are polite, kind and hospitable to a degree most noticeable by all who have lived or journeyed among them, and in no section of our land will the traveller, meeting with any mishap, or needing rest or refreshment, be more kindly and cordially cared for than in Madawaska. The "dry plank" and the best bed are ever at the disposal of the stranger guest who may be compelled by circumstances to throw himself upon their good offices and no amount of pains or personal inconvenience is spared to render all possible assistance in case of mishap. In a number of instances, when travelling in a winter night and forced by the storm to call for shelter, have we been placed in the warm bed, just vacated for our comfort by the host and hostess, while they sought for themselves other quarters, probably far less comfortable. They are of the Roman Catholic faith and are devotedly attached to their church and scrupulously faithful in religious observances. Upon this point they are peculiarly sensitive and readily resent anything approaching ridicule or opposition to their cherished religion. Thus held to-

gether by the strong bond of religious unity, which permits no sectarian divisions or discussions among themselves, and looking with extreme disfavor upon anyone of their number who presumes to desert the church, or even to neglect attendance upon her ordinances, they more naturally remain a distinct people and are less readily absorbed in the general mass of the population of the country.

Their methods of agriculture are generally of a somewhat crude and primitive sort, as they are extremely conservative and in this, as in other matters, are slow to adopt new innovations, preferring rather to cling to old usages.

Since writing the above lines, giving our personal impressions in regard to the natural tendency of our French fellow citizens to remain a distinct people, our attention has been called to a French work, written by M. Rameau more than a quarter century ago, entitled "La France aux Colonies." This author particularly emphasizes this point and even goes farther than facts of subsequent occurrences would seem to warrant. We venture to translate a few passages, hoping they may not be void of interest in this connection.

After speaking of the increase of the number of Acadians in Nova Scotia during the present century, and of their complete separation from the English residents of that province, M. Rameau says: "All authors virtually agree in bearing witness to the preservation of their language, of their national character, and to the vigilant care which they have given to these matters. Notice what Halliburton, who was a judge in Nova Scotia, wrote in 1829: 'While the Germans tend to merge themselves in the mass of the population, the Acadians remain distinct as much as possible, preserving their religion, their language and their peculiar customs; they never marry with their protestant neighbors. Among themselves they speak French, but it is mixed with some words derived from the Indian and from the English. The men, however, generally know English, but few of the women understand that language. The Acadians have a peculiar attachment for their language and their customs, and although their business often brings them among the English, they never marry with them, never adopt their manners and never quit their villages.' "

These words of Judge Halliburton, quoted by the French writer, may have been strictly true of the Acadians of Nova Scotia at the time when they were written and may continue to be so today, but they are not altogether true of their fellow

countrymen in Madawaska. There, though as a rule they marry among themselves, yet marriages with Americans are not infrequent and will probably become less rare as the younger people become better educated and the number of Americans increase in that locality. Again says Rameau, in speaking of the Acadians of Madawaska, in which number he includes all the French population on both sides of the upper St. John and which he places in 1861 at about 12,000: "Communication is becoming now more and more frequent with Lower Canada, and probably all the commercial relations of that country (Madawaska) will take place in the future through the little town of Trois Pistoles on the St. Lawrence. There is then reason to hope that the supremacy of the American merchants will gradually disappear from these villages and that in consequence an end will be put to the introduction into the language of the Acadians of Anglicisms which have crept into it during the last thirty or forty years.' "

Despite the solicitude of this ardent French writer, his dream of a permanent Acadia upon the upper St. John, with manners unchanged and language uncorrupted as when the ancestors of this people peacefully enjoyed their quiet homes "on the shores of the basin of Minas" is hardly destined to be fulfilled. To a great extent they will remain a distinct people for many years to come, but their manners, methods and language will gradually become more and more like those of the American residents in their midst. Communication with Canada is indeed becoming more easy and frequent, but the iron horse now courses away across that country, and, harnessing to his load from the grain elevators and flouring mills of our own great western cities, bears it back and lays it down at the doors of the French *habitans* on the northern border of Maine.

The vast lumber operations upon the upper St. John, carried on for the most part by Americans, either from Maine or New Brunswick, employ large numbers of the French population and thus their young men are brought into immediate contact with our business men and business methods. For these reasons some might predict that though no hostile military force should come with fire and brand again to disperse this quiet people, yet the onward march of events in the development of the country, the opening up of new railroads through our own county and the establishment of new and varied industries might in time accomplish the same results to a considerable extent. Yet could our French prophet, whom we have quoted above, visit the Madawaska region today, he might with truth say to

us something like this: "Look upon the condition of things among this people a half century ago and compare it with that of today. Then all the business of the country was done by American residents, while the simple Acadian, with no education and very little ambition in that direction, contented himself with raising his scanty crops and caring for his little flocks and herds. Now there are native French merchants at every point where business is carried on. The American settlers have decreased in numbers, while the French have increased to a wonderful extent. Not many years ago a large number of American merchants were doing business at Van Buren, Grand Isle, Madawaska, Frenchville and Fort Kent. Today the number at Van Buren and Fort Kent is very much diminished, while those at the other points mentioned have almost entirely disappeared and their places are occupied by French merchants and business men. Starch factories were built throughout the district by Americans from Maine or New Hampshire. Now nearly every one of them is owned by Frenchmen who have added to the number new factories at different points. Mills have been built at various places by Frenchmen and are now being successfully operated. Young men of the same nationality have been educated as lawyers and as physicians and have almost entirely supplanted the Americans in those professions. Fifty years ago the French settlements were confined to a narrow strip along the river with a vast wilderness in their rear. Now they have extended throughout nearly the entire portions of the towns originally occupied and have pushed their settlements through from Van Buren to Caribou, from Fort Kent to Portage Lake and are fast encroaching upon the lands between Fort Kent and New Sweden. New parishes have been formed in places then covered by the wilderness and large churches, filled each Sabbath with devout worshippers, now stand where stood the forest then. In all this country upon the upper St. John with its immense lumber business, carried on for many years and with its fertile soil there is today but a handful of American residents, not so many as fifty years ago, while the children of the Acadians have multiplied many fold and are becoming a dense population in all this region. At Van Buren only is there any Protestant church building, and that a small chapel built by the Episcopal bishop, with a pastor but a portion of the time, and this field will probably soon be abandoned for want of support. Upon the entire extent of the St. John River in Maine there is no clergyman of the Protestant faith and the services of that church are nowhere

maintained. The country is French and such it is destined to remain."

Certainly the view of the situation outlined above is largely warranted by the facts in the case and it would be indeed interesting could one visit the Madawaska region fifty years hence and note the effect of another half century upon the language, manners and customs and religious faith of this people.

From Caribou village the road runs northward for six miles across the north half of the town of Caribou, and continues on in the same direction across Township K, Range 2, Cyr Plantation and a corner of Van Buren to the St. John River.

The large mills of the Van Buren Shingle Co., located on the main river, and the long train of cars steaming along on the New Brunswick shore give a business aspect to the picture and indicate that all is not rural quiet and pastoral simplicity in this other Acadia. There are two other saw mills in the town, both located on Violette Brook. These are the Hammond mills, containing two shingle machines, and the Souci mill, with two shingle machines and a rotary. Mr. Fred B. Violette has a grist mill and carding mill. Mr. W. C. Hammond was for many years the principal business man at Van Buren and was formerly extensively engaged in trade and in the business of cutting and manufacturing lumber. He also had a fine farm a short distance below the village. His sons were also engaged in business here, but all save one have now moved to the far West and Mr. Hammond, having retired from active business, contemplates joining them. Mr. C. F. Hammond is now the only American resident who has been in business here for any considerable time. He is a relative of W. C. Hammond and is the principal merchant of the town. Mr. Hammond is also deputy collector of customs at Van Buren, and his daughter, Miss Margaret Hammond, is the village postmaster. P. C. Keegan, Esq., is the principal lawyer, and Drs. T. H. Pelletier and J. C. Upham are the physicians.

The town of Van Buren is nearly in the form of a right angled triangle, of which the west line, some eight miles in length, is the perpendicular, the south line of six miles the base, and the St. John River the hypotenuse. The settlement along the river is continuous for the whole distance across the town and there are large settlements back from the river in various portions of the town. The population of Van Buren is 1168.

The French are a remarkably prolific people and large families are the rule among them. They are also a home loving

race and for this reason, as sons grow up and marry, the paternal estate is divided and the children are settled near the old home. All along the river the farms are divided into narrow strips, each having a front on the river and running far back upon the higher land in the rear. Thus the dwellings are brought near together and along the road on both sides of the river a continuous settlement extends for many miles.

For nearly ten miles the road runs through the northern part of Van Buren and then enters the town of Grand Isle. This town is named after the large and fertile island in the St. John within the limits of the town, and has a population of 964.

In establishing the boundary the channel of the river was made the dividing line, hence all islands lying on the south of the channel are in the State of Maine, and those on the north are in the Province of New Brunswick. The land in that portion of Grand Isle which borders upon the river is productive and easy of cultivation, but farther back the soil is not so good, and the town is not so thickly settled away from the river as many of the other towns.

Twelve miles above Van Buren we come to the large estate of Dennis Cyr, a son of Paul Cyr, one of the early residents of the town. The Cyrs are of old Acadian stock and the different branches of the family are quite numerous in all this region. Mr. Cyr's house is a very large two-story building with broad verandas and is situated on a handsome plain some distance from the road and near the bank of the river. Mr. Alexis Cyr, who died some years ago, resided near here and was one of the principal citizens of the town. He was a brother of Dennis, and both received a good English education at the old Houlton Academy. Alexis Cyr represented his district in the State Legislature a few years before his death and was a man of considerable ability. Mr. Remi Plourd, another prominent citizen of the town, has a good English education and has been in trade here for some years.

On the hill near the Cyr estate is the fine large church of Notre Dame de la paix, a large white structure with a lofty spire. In matters pertaining to religious worship the people of these French towns have this marked advantage over the settlers in other Aroostook towns—they are all of one religious faith and hence by uniting their contributions are able to build one large church in each town and to give a generous support to a permanent pastor. Up to 1869 this whole Madawaska country on both sides of the St. John River was a part of the diocese of

Chatham and its religious affairs were under the control of that bishop. In that year, however, a division was made, and all the parishes on the American side were attached to the Portland diocese, now under the pastoral care of Bishop Healey, who once in two years makes a visit to all these churches. The visit of the bishop is an event of much importance to the people of these towns, and great preparation is made for his reception. Small trees are cut down and planted on both sides the road at short distances apart, making a continual grove of bushes for more than fifty miles. At each church handsome arches are built across the main road and many elaborate decorations are made. The influence of the priests over the people is very great, and in most cases is exerted in favor of temperance, sobriety and good citizenship. Formerly the priests influenced the people in regard to their political action much more than at present. Now the priests as a rule do not take so active a part as political partisans and the action of the people in this respect is becoming more independent.

Madawaska is one of the largest, as well as one of the most fertile of the river towns. Nowhere are the intervalles and plains along the river so broad and extensive, or so smooth and unbroken, and nowhere are there more beautiful landscape views.

The town of Madawaska is composed of parts of townships 18 Range 4, and 18 Range 5. It has a river front of about nine miles, and extends back from the river nearly ten miles, including a large part of Long Lake, the northernmost of the magnificent chain of lakes which extends through the northern part of the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th ranges of towns, and finds an outlet into the St. John by way of Fish River at Fort Kent. There are many roads in this town and many settlers on the lots back from the river. The population is 1451.

Leaving Madawaska, we next come into the town of Frenchville. Here the road, which for some distance has run nearly west as we travelled up the river, turns abruptly to the south and continues in that direction for nearly three miles, until we come to the great bend in the river known as Chataucoin, when it turns again and continues in a westerly course across the town. A short distance above the bend we come to the village of Frenchville at the mouth of the road leading out to Long Lake. Here there are a number of stores, a starch factory and some very handsome dwellings. This factory was built a number of years ago by Mr. J. W. Bolton, the present sheriff of the county, and Hon. Geo. W. Collins of Bridgewater.

Frenchville is a large town and has much good farming land. Its population is larger than that of any other town upon the upper St. John, being 2560 by the late census.

Next above Frenchville we come to the town of Fort Kent, and here we find that the high bluffs approach nearer the river and the land along the road becomes more broken. In one place the road runs along the base of a high mountain and the settlers along here do not see the sun until late in the day. Some twenty years ago a land slide occurred here, an area of many acres breaking loose from the high land and pushing out in a mass into the river. An abrupt break was made in the main road, that part which crossed the "landslide" being thrust over toward the river some eight or ten feet. A chasm of considerable depth and about ten feet wide was made on the side of the wooded hill back from the river and so abrupt was the break that trees were riven for some distance up the trunk and left standing astride the crevasse.

About three miles above Fort Kent village is the farm of Mr. Daniel Harford, one of the best farms in the town. A broad and fertile intervale stretches along the river front and the higher land in the rear is level and smooth. Mr. Harford is the son of John Harford, one of the earliest American settlers on the river. Mr. John Harford came from Saco about 1818 and first settled at the mouth of Baker Brook, some five miles below Fish River on the New Brunswick side. There was at one time quite a number of American settlers at that place in the early days when the question of the boundary was in dispute, and the little settlement played quite an important part in the history of that period. About 1820 Mr. Harford moved about eight miles above Fish River and settled on the American side in what is now the plantation of St. John. Here he cleared up a farm and was for many years engaged in farming, hunting and lumbering. His latter years were spent with his son, Daniel Harford, on the farm in Fort Kent.

Continuing on up the river we soon enter the plantation of St. John, and find the road here running somewhat south of west across this town. This township is not much settled except along the river road, where there is some very good land and a number of fine farms. A few miles above the town line we come to what was formerly the Savage estate, comprising a large tract of land on the main land and a very large and fertile island in the St. John River. Mr. Daniel Savage, who built the first mill on Fish River at Fort Kent, took up this tract of land many

years ago and lived upon the island, where he reared a large family of children. In company with his son, Gilman Savage, he afterwards built the large house on the mainland opposite the island and lived here until his death in 1854. The property was then divided and Mr. Robert Savage owns the east half of the large island. Mr. Gilman Savage afterwards moved to Fort Kent and engaged in trade, still retaining his interest in this property, and died at Fort Kent about twenty years ago.

A few miles above here we come to the large estate of Mr. Jesse Wheelock, upon which is one of the finest and most productive intervalles upon the river. Mr. Wheelock is the son of Mr. Jesse Wheelock, who was for many years one of the prominent business men of this section. He came from Northborough, Mass., to the city of St. John, N. B., many years ago, and engaged in business there, owning largely in vessel property. About 1830, he removed to the upper St. John, settling first at Baker Brook. Soon afterwards he removed to what is now St. John Plantation and settled on the large intervalle now owned by his son. A small stream, known as Wheelock Brook, enters the river near here, and upon this the elder Wheelock built a grist mill and also a saw mill for the manufacture of clapboards and shingles. He engaged in farming and lumbering here until his death in 1837, when his son, Jesse J. Wheelock, took the property and continued to operate the mills for a year, when the estate was divided and Mrs. Duncan Sinclair, a daughter of Mr. Jesse Wheelock, came into possession of the mill property. Mr. Duncan Sinclair, who now carries on the mills, is a son of Mr. John Sinclair, who came from Restigouche, N. B., about 1840, and settled at the mouth of Little Black River. Ten years later he moved to a farm in St. Francis, where he lived until his death in 1884. Mr. Sinclair was of Scotch parentage and though a naturalized citizen of the United States, never lost his feeling of loyalty to Great Britain. When nearing his death he requested Mr. Robert Conners to procure a British flag in which his body might be enshrouded for burial. This wish Mr. Conners complied with and the old man's body now rests enveloped in the flag of the country he loved so well.

Opposite Mr. Wheelock's, on the New Brunswick side, is the store and fine establishment of Mr. Robers Conners, one of the largest lumber operators on the upper St. John.

The present survey of the Temiscouata Railroad terminates near Mr. Conners' store, but the line will probably be continued further up the river. Continuing up the river on the American

side, we pass the farm of Mr. Samuel Russell, who came from Kennebec many years ago and who always has a yoke of noble big oxen, and come to the Hunnewell farm on the line between St. John and St. Francis. Mr. Barnabas Hunnewell came from Solon, in Somerset County, to St. John, N. B., about 1820. He afterwards removed to Baker Brook and in 1830, came up the river and settled on the large island now known as Hunnewell's Island, and included in the plantation of St. John. He also took up a tract of land on the main land, where he afterwards built his house and carried on a large farming and lumbering business. The country in this section was covered with a heavy growth of pine and the manufacture of pine timber was a most profitable business at that time. "Squire Hunnewell," as he was always called, was a justice of the peace for many years and was a man of much ability. His death occurred in 1868 and his widow still resides upon the old farm with her daughter and son-in-law. The Hunnewell residence is in the plantation of St. Francis, though the island and a large part of the farm is in St. John Plantation.

Continuing up the river road through St. Francis, we pass the farm of the late Mr. John Sinclair and soon come to Mr. Charles McPherson's, one of the oldest residents of the town. He came here with his father sixty-one years ago, and has lived at St. Francis ever since. His father, Mr. Charles McPherson, was born in Rhode Island, whence he removed to Restigouche, N. B., and came to St. Francis in 1829. He lived here some twenty years, and then removed to Mattawamkeag. His son Charles, the present proprietor of the farm, remained at St. Francis, where he has ever since been engaged in farming and lumbering and is one of the principal citizens of the town. He is now seventy years old but is hale and hearty.

Opposite the mouth of the St. Francis River which enters the St. John about fifteen miles above Fort Kent is the large estate owned and occupied for many years by the late Martin Savage, Esq. This estate consisted of three large and very handsome islands and a large farm on the main land. The house is a handsome two story building, built and finished in the most thorough manner and conveniently arranged in every part. On the opposite side of the road are a number of large barns and stables in which Mr. Savage always kept a fine stock of horses and cattle. Years ago, when Mr. Savage was living and his family circle was unbroken, this was one of the pleasantest homes in Aroostook. Here unbounded hospitality reigned and

friends were always sure of a cordial and warm-hearted welcome. Many merry parties have gathered around that ample board and joined in social pleasures within those spacious and handsomely furnished rooms. Mr. Savage was the son of Daniel Savage and moved to St. Francis about 1850. He engaged extensively in farming and raised large crops of grain which found a ready market in the lumber woods. He also carried on lumber operations to a considerable extent and was for many years engaged in trade at St. Francis. He also owned an interest in the starch factory at Frenchville and at the time of his death, which occurred in 1888, was possessed of a large property. After his death the estate at St. Francis was sold by the heirs, and his widow and three daughters, all that remain of a large family, are now living in the State of Washington. That part of the farm lying upon the main land is now owned by Mr. Neal McLean, an old resident of the town who has long been engaged in lumbering operations upon the upper St. John. The islands have been purchased by parties living upon the Provincial side of the river.

A short distance above Mr. McLean's the road runs along the summit of a high "horseback" formation thrown up to a considerable height from the midst of a beautiful plain. The view from this point is very fine, and as one looks down the river from this "horseback" the landscape scenery, consisting of river, islands and large cultivated fields, forms a picture of rare beauty. Aroostook is full of grand views and beautiful landscape pictures, but nowhere are they more beautiful than upon the upper St. John.

Above the mouth of the St. Francis the St. John is wholly within the State of Maine. The St. Francis is the boundary river from that point to the extreme northern point of the State, which is the northwestern corner of "Big Twenty," that township running entirely across the State and being bounded on three sides by Canadian territory. The plantation of St. Francis comprises Township 17, Range 9, and is thickly settled along the river, but has few settlers upon other parts of the town. There is much good land along the river but the land further back is not so fertile. Not far from Mr. McLean's is a deposit of slate of fine quality and lying so as to be very easily quarried.

The Catholic Church of St. Charles is located in this plantation and was build by Father Sweron in 1870. The population is 461, a majority of whom are French. .

The Allegash Plantation above St. Francis is still another

organized plantation and there are many fine farms with large and costly buildings both upon the main river and upon the Allegash. Though these farmers are far distant from the business centers and their products cannot be shipped to outside markets, yet the large lumber business carried on in their immediate vicinity creates a demand for all their surplus products and brings a good cash market to their own doors. On this account their business has been a prosperous one and many improvements have, within the last few years, been made in the farms and farm buildings of this section. A large extent of country, including the Allegash and Little Black settlements, has been organized as Allegash Plantation and thus the settlers are permitted to exercise the right of suffrage and also to raise money for school purposes and to draw their proportional part of the State stipend. This plantation has a population of 83, a large majority of whom are of English descent.

The turnpike road extends up the river some four miles above the mouth of the St. Francis, and beyond that point the travel in summer is wholly by boats upon the river. The road has been laid out, however, by the County Commissioners as far up as the mouth of the Allegash; and justice to the settlers in this upper country demands that it be opened for travel. In the winter a good road is kept open on the river as far up as Seven Islands and large quantities of supplies are hauled up the river to the lumber camps above. A few miles from the mouth of the St. Francis, if we cross to the north bank of the St. John, we find a "portage" which leads through the woods some two miles to Fall Brook. This is a rough and noisy little stream flowing in a northeasterly direction across Township 17, R. 10, and emptying into the St. Francis a mile or two above the mouth of that river. The portage strikes the stream at the falls where the water dashes down over steep ledges, foams and rushes among large bowlders so near together that we can leap from one to another and cross the brook to a fine camping ground on the other side. Here, we think, may be found today a tall pine stump hewn smooth on its sides and inscribed with the names of a merry party of some forty men, women and children who camped here for two nights twenty years ago. Six miles above the falls on this stream is a small lake in which trout are found in great abundance.

The Allegash River enters the St. John from the south some twelve miles above the mouth of the St. Francis. It is a large, strong, flowing river fed by numerous lakes, and with its many

tributary streams drains a large timber producing region.

At the mouth of the Allegash is a large farm where many years ago lived Mr. Samuel Bolton, father of the present sheriff of Aroostook County. Here Mr. Bolton raised large crops of hay and grain for the lumber woods and his house was a place of entertainment for lumbermen on their way to and from the camps.

Three miles above the mouth of the Allegash we come to the mouth of Little Black River, which rises away up in Canada and flowing in a southeasterly course enters the St. John on its northern side in Township No. 17, R. 11. The country in the vicinity of the Allegash and Little Black has been considerably improved within a few years and the good farms and substantial farm buildings give evidence of the prosperity of the settlers upon the newly organized Allegash Plantation.

Formerly the larger portion of the supplies for the lumber camps and also for the stores along the river was boated up the river from Fredericton. The boats used were large, flat bottomed scows with a cabin built upon the after end in which the boatman ate and slept, and upon the top of which the helmsman stood and steered the boat by means of a huge rudder. Some of these boats are capable of carrying two hundred barrels of pork, and are drawn up the river by horses. Two horses are attached to each boat by a long warp and are guided by a rider on the back of the near horse. The horses travel upon the beach whenever a "tow-path" can be found, but are often obliged to wade in deep water and in many places to swim the river as the tow-path changes from side to side. In the late fall when ice begins to form it is cold work for men and horses. Since the extension of the railroad to Edmundston supplies have been forwarded to that point and they will now come to Clair station opposite Fort Kent, and thus the tow-path will be very much shortened. Many supplies for the camps on the upper St. John are also brought by the Grand Trunk to L'Islet and St. Jean Port Joli on the St. Lawrence and thence hauled through the woods to Seven Islands and from there to the different camps.

Further on up the river, above Big Rapids we come to the Simmons farm on the north bank of the St. John. This farm was cleared many years ago for the purpose of raising hay and grain for the lumber woods, but latterly it has not been so well cultivated. A few miles further on brings us to Seven Islands. We are now some seventy miles above Fort Kent, but find the St. John nearly as wide here as at Woodstock. Seven Islands

has for many years been the most important point in all this forest region and has long been the depot of supplies for large lumbering operations. The old Cary farm is situated on the north bank of the river and includes also the islands which give the place its name, some of which contain many acres of fertile land and produce large crops of hay and grain. Many years ago Hon. Shepard Cary of Houlton carried on an immense lumber business on the St. John and Allegash and cleared up this farm for the purpose of producing supplies and also to serve as a depot for his extensive operations. The house is a large story and a half structure standing near the river bank and containing a number of ample rooms, the largest of which is the big dining room, with its long table, at which many hungry men have been fed. In the kitchen is a huge stone fireplace with its long iron crane upon which are hung the big pots in which many a toothsome meal has been cooked. There are a number of large barns upon the farm, the boards with which they are covered having been sawed with a whipsaw from the clearest and soundest of pine lumber. Upon the main land above the house is a large tract of level land of great fertility and under good cultivation. This large farm was for many years the property of the firm of Cary & Cunliffe, and afterwards of the firm of Cunliffe & Stevens, during which time large numbers of fine blooded animals were kept upon the farm. The estate now belongs to Mr. Arthur DeChaine, a former resident of Canada, who is extensively engaged in farming and lumbering.

On the opposite side of the river is the large farm of Mr. Frank Currier, which consists of many acres of fine, productive land and has commodious and well constructed buildings. Mr. Currier has lived here for many years and has engaged quite extensively in farming and lumbering, in which business he has been very successful. There are a number of other farms in the immediate vicinity, making quite a little settlement, the farthest from tide water on the upper St. John. The settlers were at one time organized as the Plantation of Seven Islands, and for a number of years the returns from Seven Islands were anxiously looked for before the result of an election could be formally declared. The present proprietor of the "Big Farm" not being an American citizen, the plantation a number of years ago lost its organization and Allegash now has the honor of being the farthest up river precinct to which politicians devote their attention. From Seven Islands a good road leads out across Black River to the Canadian border and continues on to

the St. Lawrence, the distance from Seven Islands to L'Islet being about forty miles.

Should we continue our journey up the St. John we should find that we have left behind us the last settlement in Aroostook County in this direction, and must conclude that at last we are in the woods. We may yet push on for more than twenty miles by the river before we reach the confines of Aroostook, for our course is now a southerly one, and when we cross the County line we find ourselves in the northern part of Somerset County. A few miles farther on we come to the forks, where the two branches of the river unite, and if we continue on up the St. John the boundary between Maine and the Dominion of Canada but now upon the western instead of the northeastern border of the State.

As we have reached at Seven Islands the *Ultima Thule* of Aroostook settlements upon the St. John we will return and make our way up the Allegash and see what we can find there in the way of cultivated improvements. The Allegash for some distance above its mouth is a rapid, noisy, strong flowing river during the open season, but we have travelled alone on its glassy surface in winter, when the bright sun of a quiet Sabbath morning was just tinting the tree tops on its rugged banks, and when hardly a sound was heard to break the stillness of Nature's grand solitude. At such times we were always reminded of Cooper's matchless tales and we think it must have been from just such scenes as can here be found that he derived much of his grand inspiration.

Twelve miles above the mouth we come to the falls, where the river dashes and tumbles over a rocky precipice and sends great islands of foam floating down the swift current below. On the face of the rock visitors have cut their autographs, one bearing date as early as 1833. Above the falls a number of settlers have made clearings and have comfortable homes. Joseph Gilbert, Thomas Moore, Thomas Larry and George McKinnon have here made openings in the forest and established their homes far from any road except in winter. Away to one side of the beaten track these families lead a quiet, peaceful life, while the busy, noisy world with its weary strife and endless contests moves on all unheeded and uncared for.

Three miles above the falls we come to the farm of Mr. Finley McLellan, who settled here many years ago and has now a good farm and comfortable buildings. It is a hospitable home and the traveller on reaching here is always sure of a kindly wel-

come. Being the last house for many miles it is a landmark in this section and distances are reckoned as so many miles from "Finley's," as from a point of departure.

We passed the mouths of numerous small streams and twelve miles above the falls came to the mouth of the Musquacook, a river of considerable volume flowing northward into the Allegash from a long lake which extends away down into Piscataquis County. Large lumber operations are carried on upon this stream and many logs are driven from it every spring. Mr. S. Walter Stevens has cut about seven millions upon Musquacook each year for a number of years and will this winter cut about the same quantity. Mr. W. H. Cunliffe's operation this winter will be upon the Allegash on Township 14 and 15, Range 11 and 12, 13, 14 and 15 R. 12. Both these operators have a large number of men and horses already in the woods, and with a favorable winter will have large drives.

LIMESTONE

Directly north of Fort Fairfield in the tier of townships lying along the boundary line lies the flourishing town of Limestone. Unlike many of the comparatively new towns in Aroostook County, the first opening made upon this forest township was for manufacturing instead of agricultural purposes.

In the year 1845 Gen. Mark Trafton of Bangor, then Custom House Officer at Fort Fairfield, conceived the idea of building a mill upon the forest tract to the north of that town for the purpose of manufacturing clapboards to be shipped to Boston market. The township was then known as Letter E, Range 1, and was wholly in its original wilderness state. A strong flowing stream ran through the township and emptied into the Aroostook River a short distance above its junction with the St. John. In the report of the Scientific Survey this stream was denominated Limestone Stream, from the geological formation near its mouth, and was so named on the Maine charts, though known in New Brunswick as Little River.

Gen. Trafton associated with himself Mr. B. D. Eastman of Washington County, who was at that time living at Fort Fairfield, and having previously obtained from the State Legislature a grant of 1600 acres of land in aid of building the mill,