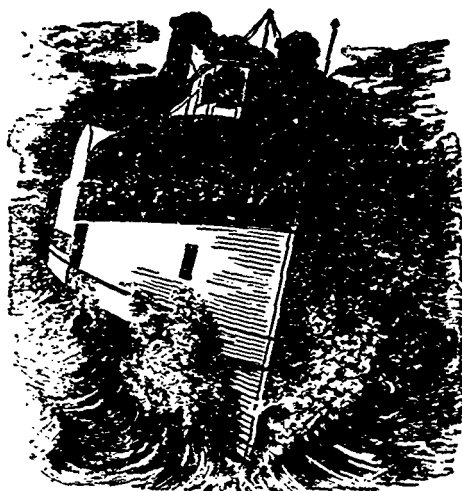


## PICTURESQUE CANADA.

## THE ST. LAWRENCE.



RUNNING THE RAPIDS.

WITH the exception of the Amazon at its flood, the St. Lawrence is the largest river in the world. Its basin contains more than half of all the fresh water on the planet. At its issue from Lake Ontario it is two and a half miles wide, and is seldom less than two miles. At its mouth it is upwards of thirty miles wide, and at Cape Gaspe the Gulf is nearly a hundred miles wide.

There are three features of special interest in the St. Lawrence—the Thousand Islands, the Rapids, and the highlands of the north shore from Quebec down. The first are the perfection of beauty, the second are almost terrible in their strength, and the last are stern and grand, rising at times to the sublime. The noble river has been made the theme of a noble poem by Charles Sargster, a Canadian writer, who is too little known in his own country. In our brief sketch we shall enrich our pages with quotations from his spirited verse.

The Lake of the Thousand Islands begins immediately below Kingston, and stretches down the river for forty or fifty miles, varying from six to twelve miles in width. This area is profusely strewn with islands of all sizes, from the little rock, giving precarious foothold to a stunted juniper or a few wild flowers, to the large island, stretching in broad farms and waving with tall and stately forests. Instead of a thousand, there are in all some eighteen hundred of these lovely isles.