

and zeal as lighthouse keeper and fishery officer are too well known and too well appreciated by the Government departments to require any additional credit; but yet, in penning a history of Gannet Rock light, his name merits honorable mention, and we would not withhold it.

Grand Manan up to the year 1854 remained singularly exempt from toads, frogs, serpents, or snakes—not even the sharp bark of the fox was ever heard in its deep valleys or on its hill-tops. The island was as highly favoured as was Ireland, when the good and the great Saint Patrick banished, in his righteous indignation and by virtue of the power in him vested:

“Toad, serpent and snake
From bramble and brake.”

Our Gannet Rock lighthouse keeper took a different view of such things altogether; for to him belongs the praise or the blame of introducing that ugly creature, the toad, to the island. And, whether wittingly or unwittingly, it seems a remarkable coincidence that the introduction of the toad by Mr. McLaughlin was on the 12th of July—the day celebrated by Orangemen, in remembrance of the Battle of the Boyne! Not content with peopling the hitherto toadless island with toads he followed it up, by bringing over from the mainland foxes and frogs in August 1874. It does seem strange that the importer of toads should have permitted over a score of years to roll on, before he turned his attention, with paternal affection, to the frog and the fox! For want of better data, it can only be inferred that he wished to provide the islanders with cheap music by night to sing them to sleep, after the manner of oriental princes, and to raise young Reynards for the trapper's trap and sportsman's gun. Although his stock of toads only numbered four all told, yet so prodigiously did they increase, that in less than twelve years they were found on all parts of the island; and, when the rate of travel of his toadship is taken into consideration, it must have required a long time to hop the toad-hop from the vicinity of Deep Cove at Southern Head to Eel Brook at North Head, over twenty miles, attending to toad-creation in the meantime.

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