

by a large number of persons—they allude to the Excursion which took place on the 3rd September last to the beautiful gardens at McDonald's Point at the entrance to the far famed "Thousand Islands" on the River St. Lawrence. Contrary to the expectations of many, the affair proved very successful. Notwithstanding the gloomy state of the weather preparatory to starting, by the appointed time for so doing the railway cars chartered expressly for the occasion were well filled with an apparently happy company resolved to enjoy themselves consistently.

At Prescott considerable delay and disappointment was experienced consequent on the receipt of a telegram from G. M. Kinghorn, Esq., of Kingston, informing your Committee that the steamer "Watertown" which had been engaged by them, had met with an accident which would prevent his fulfilling the engagement entered into with your Committee. It was however very fortunate that, after about an hour's delay, they were enabled to procure another steamer which answered the purpose tolerably well, and from the time the Excursionists left Prescott until their return to Ottawa, not the slightest incident occurred calculated to mar the pleasures of the day. It need scarcely be said that all that could be done was done by Your Committee to ensure the comfort and happiness of all who were pleased to lend encouragement to their endeavors.

It is exceedingly gratifying to Your Committee to be in a position to state that notwithstanding the heavy expenses incurred, the nett proceeds accruing from this affair amounted to \$63; a sum which, in their opinion, would have been trebled had the Excursion taken place a month earlier than it did.

At the last Quarterly General Meeting held 7th January, the Secretary of this Society signified his wish to retire at the forthcoming annual Meeting from the office which he has held for twelve years. With every disposition to serve the Society and feeling as deep an interest in its welfare as ever he has thought proper to make this announcement.

Your Committee can well understand, how, that after so long a period of no ordinary labor connected with the Society, rendered cheerfully and gratuitously by that gentleman, he should have at length been led to express a wish to be relieved of his onerous duties.

It will be remembered that at the last Annual Meeting a Resolution was adopted authorizing Your Committee to procure a suitable banner. Through the kindness of Walter Chesterton, Esq., of this city, designs had been procured from England, none of which had however been approved of by Your Committee, the majority of whom being, while desirous of carrying out the wishes of the Society, opposed to the introduction of a banner such as the one suggested, believing that the Englishmen of Ottawa required no more glorious ensign to flutter in their public processions or to grace their festive halls, than

"The Flag that's braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze,"

and the simple Red Cross banner of St. George.