

The steamer leaves St. John in the early dawn, in order to pass the falls above the city at a certain point in the tide. These falls are remarkable for being reversible; that is, the water flows in one direction one-half the day, and in the opposite direction during the remainder of the day. When the tide ebbs, the river comes over the falls. When flood tide comes, the ocean rises, covers the falls, and flows up stream. Just between the two tides is the time that vessels seize to go up and down the river.

The falls safely passed, we enter that part of St. John River called the Narrows, because, as you might suppose from the name, the precipitous banks draw close to each other, making the stream very narrow. Far up on both sides of the cliffs miners are at work. A sudden puff of smoke is seen, a dull boom is heard, and then fragments of rock begin to rattle down into the river. The men are blasting.

Presently the hills retreat, and the river valley broadens during the rest of the way to Fredericton. The land is very fertile, because the river floods all the low lands in the spring. The farmer sets his nets in the meadows; and when the river returns to its bed, it leaves behind large quantities of silvery fish, which fill the nets to bursting.

A few weeks later, the fields, over which but recently the waters rolled, are being ploughed and planted.

So the farmer's field on the St. John yields two crops—one crop of fish, the other crop of grain and vegetables. When such are the advantages of farm life on the river, it is no wonder that every hillock is crowned