

dian lions, beavers, black and silver foxes, and other valuable fur-bearing animals.

Mingan was the post at which Mr. Smith was stationed, and, notwithstanding its importance, there were few white men in the place, and its dreariness, to an active mind like his, must have been, during the long winter months, something appalling.

Of a daring and adventurous spirit, in summer there were always many attractions to him in organizing hunting and fishing excursions into the interior, where game was found in abundance in the woods and rivers, on whose shores dwelt extensive colonies of wild geese, eider, ptarmigan and willow-grouse. But the long winter evenings would have passed slowly indeed, had it not been that Mr. Smith was strongly imbued with a love of study and an ever-increasing desire to add to his store of knowledge. With his customary perseverance, he deeply read many subjects, and in after years he had no reason to regret the forced isolation of his Labrador sojourn, for such a life gave him many opportunities of perfecting himself in branches of learning eminently useful later on, when he came to play his part in the busy centres of nineteenth century civilization. His facility in grasping a subject and quickly making himself master of every detail appertaining thereto has often been remarked by experienced business men, and no doubt his years of study in Labrador had much to do with training his mind for the more onerous duties he afterwards undertook. It was during his residence at Mingan that an incident occurred, which serves to illustrate that unfailing perseverance and unswerving adherence to duty, which has been at all times the keynote to Mr. Smith's career, and it also shows the immensity of the dangers through which the makers of Canada had to go on their arduous path to honour and success.

When stationed at Mingan, Mr. Smith was left in charge of the post, and, unfortunately, at that time, he was attacked by the terrible scourge of snow-blindness, and was in imminent danger of losing his eyesight. What such a calamity would have been to an ambitious and active young man can easily be imagined, and few will blame him for the course he took on this occasion.

There being no good oculist nearer than Montreal, he determined, after some deliberation, to set out from Mingan, accompanied by two half-breed guides, on his difficult journey up the coast. It was winter