

Queen Victoria sent this famous boat later to assist the American Government in its search for the ill-fated Greeley Expedition, when they found that heroic explorer and the remnant of his tattered companions well-nigh exhausted and hopeless, and brought them back to civilisation. Shortly after this, the "Alert" made a trip from Halifax to Hudson's Bay and York Harbour, and it was intended that she should be sent back to England to swell the list of her naval curiosities, but she was found to be not seaworthy enough to stand the ocean voyage, so was sold to a junk dealer in Quebec, where soon after she was burnt at Beauport Flats. Before this tragic ending took place, two enterprising ladies who have resided at their beautiful home in Cap à l'Aigle for many summers, hearing of the sale of the "Alert," thought it would be a good opportunity to obtain some of the fittings, so went to Quebec to interview the purchaser.

They tell the story very quaintly.

"You know," they say, "we said to the man, 'We want to buy some of the fittings of this old boat, but we don't know in the least what they are worth—we are completely at your mercy! so you can cheat us if you like! but we hope you won't!'"

Four mahogany chests of drawers, such as