

Being anxious to reach the upper waters of the Saint John before the pickets were removed, so that I could form some definite idea of the manner in which net fishing is actually pursued on that river, I proceeded to the Grand Falls by stage, and arrived there on the morning of the 5th September. I engaged a man and his canoe to take me down the river, and proceeded at once to collect information respecting its fisheries.

Salmon ascend to the Grand Falls, about 240 miles from the sea, and all the important tributaries which are not obstructed by impassable dams. Both shad and gaspereau frequently ascend to the Falls, and all are taken by drift nets in their immediate vicinity, as well as in the whole course of the river.

*Salmon River*, which enters the St. John on the east side, a few miles below the Falls, was formerly the resort of immense numbers of salmon; but of late years drifting and spearing at its mouth have greatly reduced them. Although fishing by drift nets is entirely prohibited in the Saint John, still, owing to the negligence of the proper authorities, it is openly pursued wherever the water is favorable. But few nets are set between the Falls and the Aroostook, drifting being the ordinary mode of fishing.

*The Aroostook* is a very considerable tributary of the Saint John, flowing into it from the westward, up which salmon ascend to the foot of an impassable Fall, about four miles from its mouth. As all the fish that enter this river are confined in this short distance, great havoc is committed among them in all the modes that dishonest ingenuity can invent. In the basin below the Falls, large numbers are swept out with nets, and spearing is practised throughout its whole length, from the Falls to its mouth. John Russell occupies the land at the Falls, and claims a monopoly in this illegal work.

*The Tobique* is a large river entering the Saint John on its eastern side, and as there is at present no artificial obstruction in its course, it is a favorite spawning place for salmon, which resort to it in large numbers. There is an Indian Village at its mouth, the head-quarters of all the Indians on the Saint John and its branches. These Indians not only spear openly in the vicinity of the mouth of the river, but pursue the fish to its head waters, and take them at all times, and in all modes, without the slightest regard to the laws. There is a Warden here, Mr. John Giberson, whose district extends to the mouth of the St. Francis, many miles above the Grand Falls. As no migratory fish can pass the Falls, there is little need of a Warden above, and if this officer were directed to concentrate his attention to the waters of the Tobique and the Aroostook, and would do his duty fearlessly and faithfully, this wholesale destruction of breeding fish in both these rivers might be prevented. I passed the Tobique about 8 o'clock in the evening, and counted no fewer than six canoes, each with two Indians pursuing their unlawful work. Mr. Giberson informed me that salmon were more plentiful this year than they had been in the Tobique for many previous years.

*River de Chute* on the west, and the *Munquart* and *Shiktahawk* on the east, are small and inconsiderable streams, up which no migratory fish ascend.

*Big and Little Presqu'île*, two considerable streams flowing in on the west side, are both frequented by salmon, and as usual, spearing is practised on both.

*The Becquimic*, a considerable stream entering from the east, was formerly frequented by salmon, but a mill-dam, without a fish-way at its mouth, now prevents their passage. The presence of a net, set below, being the first I had seen since leaving the Grand Falls, leads me to think they still endeavor to ascend it.

At Upper Woodstock I had an interview with Hugh Harrison, Esq., Warden of the district, from Eel River to River de Chute, a distance of 57 miles. I found him a very intelligent gentleman, and extremely anxious to do all in his power to enforce the laws and protect the river, and in consequence his district is freer from illegal practices than any other on the whole course of the river. Mr. Harrison informed me that it was impossible for him to exercise as strict a supervision as he wished over so extended a district, but he did the best he could, and he found the people generally willing to obey his instructions, which proves that Wardens can do their duty if they choose. Mr. Harrison had been