

JOTTINGS FROM THE KINGDOM OF COD.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "QUEBEC PAST AND PRESENT."

VII.

The graphic account—legendary though it be—of the origin of the Paspjacks, by our much esteemed friend, Mr. J. Oldbuck, embodied in our last, having whetted our appetite—dare we presume—that of our many readers—for the marvellous, it has occurred to us that we, too, might from our own store of literary treasures, contribute something in the same line. At our very first leisure, we have accordingly dived in the recesses of a venerable portfolio, our constant friend, during innumerable rambles by land and by sea, and lo! to our eager gaze, appeared, *inter alia*, a high seasoned, and no doubt, veracious history of a mysterious phenomenon, *The Moving Light of Baie des Chaleurs*, as contained in some of the leading journals of the New Brunswick side of the Bay, for which we shall now find room, cautioning at the same time our readers against the idea of a monopoly of this identical light, which the settlement of Maria, in the County of Bonaventure, wishes to set up.

THE MOVING LIGHT IN THE BAY DES CHALEURS.

(From the Chatham (Miramichi) Colonial Times, of 12th Nov. 1861.)

"A phenomenon of a strange nature has been visible in the Bay des Chaleurs for the last fifty years, and although every inhabitant along that extensive coast is accustomed to witness it from time to time, yet we do not remember having seen anything about it in print, or hearing of it from any individual up to the time of our late visit to that quarter about three weeks ago. On the night of Monday, the 17th ult., while in Caraque, a fine settlement about forty miles below Bathurst, in the County of Gloucester, we saw this famous light, apparently a short distance below Point Mizzenet but far out in the Bay. It appeared as if the hull of some little craft was on fire and the devouring element was sweeping through the rigging and consuming everything within its reach. Such of course were the first efforts of the imagination in endeavoring to give outline or shape to an indefinite something that was far beyond the powers of closer investigation. It was pointed out to us by John McIntosh, Esq., of that place, in whose company we were at the time of its appearance. This gentleman gave us a short sketch of its history, which was corroborated by the statements of many others from different localities along this extensive sea coast.

The light in its appearance and movements is totally different from the *Ignis fatuus* or "Will o' the Wisp." It precedes a north-westerly storm, and is a sure forerunner of it. It is not confined to one locality, but is seen from time to time at different places by the inhabitants of Caraque, Grance, New Bandon, Salmon Beach, in fact by the whole population between Miscou and Bathurst. It is not confined to summer nor to the open water, but is as frequently seen on the ice during the frost of winter. In the summer season parties have gone out to examine it in boats, but as they approach it, it disappears, and after they have passed the place where it had been, to some distance, it re-appears behind them, giving the curious but little chance of a close investigation. What it really is, few pretend to say, but that it is the result of natural causes not many intelligent persons doubt; yet like all other strange sights and circumstances, it has its tradition, which is not only current among the illiterate but is firmly believed by many of the more intelligent inhabitants of the Bay des Chaleurs."

THE TRADITION.

"We have listened to many inhabitants of the Bay des Chaleurs, accounting for this strange and remarkable phenomenon; and also those who believe in the supernatural, while they differ in some minor points agree in this one, that the light originated in a bloody tragedy committed in the Bay about ten years before it made its appearance. It is said to be in the remembrance of many persons now living that about sixty years ago a small craft was cast away in the Bay—the parties in charge were supposed to be drowned, and the goods on board lost, and buried in the water. Shortly afterwards the bodies of the unfortunate men were driven ashore, and from certain marks and appearances pointed out by individuals, it was supposed that foul play had been used, and that instead of the parties having been drowned, they had been murdered, their boat plundered and set adrift, wherever the tossing billows were disposed to carry it. After some time suspicion was aroused, and rested upon certain individuals who had been out in the bay at the time of the sad occurrence, and were found to be in possession of articles belonging to the other boat. No legal steps, however, were taken in the matter, and time passed on, the circumstances being forgotten by many, when the bay was visited by a dreadful northwest gale, such as had not occurred in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. In the morning after the gale, the boat belonging to the supposed murderers was found dashed to pieces at —, and the individuals themselves so broken upon the rocks by the wild dashing surges that they could hardly be recog-

* The writer has had this latter fact corroborated by an old *navigateur*, Capt. N. Allard, of St. Paul Street, Quebec, who states having seen it in the depth of winter. It blazed furiously on the ice, and seemed of the size of a ball of merchandise.

nized. Thus it is supposed vengeance followed them, and the guilty party received a signal retribution. Since this wreck, and on the eve of every northwesterly gale, such as the supposed murderers were wrecked in, the light is visible in one part of the bay or another; and at times approaches the shore so closely, coming into the very cove, that certain individuals whom we can name are prepared not only to assert, but also to attest upon oath, that they have seen this light, or rather this blazing craft (which it is supposed to be) so distinctly that they could recognize the individuals moving and passing through the flames! Such are the outlines of the tradition connected with this strange phenomenon."

I am not one of the fortunate visitors to whom was vouchsafed a sight of the moving light. In explaining natural causes, I know of no class of people more prone to accept the marvellous and supernatural than the hardy and storm-beaten fishermen of every country, and of no portion of the Dominion before the era of lighthouses and beacons more famed for marine disasters than the shores and islands of the Lower St. Lawrence. On some spots, the minds of the people seem quite inured with tales of death, starvation, cannibalism. The Cornish wrecker hanging at nightfall, during the storm, his perfidious lantern on some jutting headland, to decoy to a horrible death the unsuspecting mariner, had at once representatives and types on the Gaspé coast. Thanks to Commander Fortin, T. Robitaille, Hon. P. Mitchell, and other M.P.'s, the lighthouse, the beacon, the alarm gun, and the telegraph, have been enlisted in the cause of suffering humanity, and the loss of life or of valuable merchandise rarely happens at present. There is one memorable marine disaster often alluded to, but we think only described fully in the "Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec for 1830," page 187. We mean the melancholy shipwreck of the *Granicus* at Anticosti, in 1828.

"On the 29th October, 1828, the barque *Granicus* cleared from the port of Quebec, on her homeward-bound passage to the Cove of Cork, and being wrecked on the coast of Anticosti, not far from the East Point, the crew and passengers are supposed (for their conduct subsequently, up to the period of their dissolution, is only probable surmise, founded on strong presumptive evidence, there being no living witness to the transaction) to have met, in their search along the shore, with one of the direction boards, under the guidance of which they proceeded to the north-westward, as far as Fox Cove, where a provision depot formerly existed, and where the board alluded to above taught them to expect one still. This board, according to Godin, was brought by one of the unfortunate wretches to the place where it was afterwards found. Upon arriving at this post, they found it deserted, the provisions removed, and nothing but an empty log house and store to receive them. Into these they entered, and yielding to deplorable necessity, they appear to have submitted themselves, gradually but deeply, to all the horrors of cannibalism; for, what other inference could be drawn from finding the beams of their dwelling-places shambled with human subjects, half carcasses, half skeleton, from which the flesh had undoubtedly been removed, to a pot which was found resting upon the ashes of the extinct fire, the whole of its disgusting contents not quite demolished—from the discovery of a pile of 'well picked bones' and 'putrid flesh'—from the circumstance that money, watches, and gold rings, &c., &c., were found upon the premises, together with a pencilled note, signed B. Harrington, desiring that forty-eight sovereigns in his hammock (which were found), should be sent home to Mary Harrington (probably his poor mother) Barrack Street, Cove, 'as they are the property of her son.' This man, the only un-mutilated form among them, was found dead in his hammock, being the last to survive the cold and the poisonous effects of this infernal feast. Some fishermen from the Magdalen Islands, probably searching after wrecks, were the witnesses to these closing sorrows, and, collecting them together, they were buried in a small piece of ground adjoining, now enclosed by a wooden fence. It was thought that the remains of three children, two women and eight men, could be distinguished. The skeletons of two men were also found in the woods, to which they are supposed to have retreated with the view of avoiding such a scene, and flattered by the hope of reaching a place of safety. It is said the boat of the *Granicus* was found on the shore of Fox Cove, when visited by the Magdalen fishermen, about the middle of May, 1829, and hence it has been considered a subject for surprise that, when the crew and passengers found the post deserted, they did not return on their course and seek another, situated at the East Point, not far from the spot where they appear to have suffered shipwreck."

(To be continued.)

FORMER PASSAGES OF THE DANUBE.

Nineteen times within the last hundred years the Russian forces crossed the Danube with hostile intent, without including the present passage of the river; three times the passage was effected at Turtukai, three times at Hirsova, and other three times at Ismaila. Twice the river was crossed at Kladova, twice at Ibraila, while once only were troops brought across at Gosobal, once at Tiernavoda, once at Silistria, and once at Satunovo. In its last number the *Militär-Wochenblatt* gives some details of these several enterprises. The first occasion on which

the Russian forces crossed to the right bank of the Danube was during the campaign of 1773. An armistice had been arranged in 1772, but peace could not be concluded. Accordingly at the express idea of the Empress Catherine, it was determined to lead the Russian army across the river. The Turks had the strongly garrisoned fortresses of Rustchuk, Silistria, and Schumla, had posted troops in observation at every point of passage, and held strong reserves in readiness in rear. Nevertheless, General Suvaroff succeeded in transporting 700 men across the river at Turtakai during the night between the 9th and 10th of May, 1773, defeating and putting to flight 4,000 irregular Turkish troops stationed there. On the 27th of the same month Suvaroff was followed by General Weismann; while, at the same time, General Potemkin succeeded in capturing Hirsova, and in establishing there a second passage across the river. Screened by these detachments the main Russian army, under General Rumanzoff, crossed over the Danube at Gosobal, about twenty miles below Silistria, and advanced to the attack of the latter fortress. Every effort to take it was, however, in vain; and disheartened by his want of success, the Russian general fell back again across the river. In the autumn however, at the earnest instance of the Empress, he recrossed to the right bank and penetrated into Bulgaria, as far as the Balkans. In the following year, 1774, the Danube was again crossed by Russian forces, this time early in April, by Kamienski at Ismaila. During the same month General Suvaroff effected a passage at Tiernavoda, and Glaboff crossed over in the vicinity of Silistria. The next attempt to carry Russian forces across the Danube was made by Miloradovitch, who sought to capture Giurgevo by storm in March, 1809. The attack failed, as did also a like enterprise undertaken by Proskorovski against Ibraila. Still the Emperor Alexander insisted that the river should be crossed, and, accordingly, General Isajeff passed over to the right bank at Kladova to assist the Servians. This latter place was stormed. Again the assault was unsuccessful, and again the Russians were fain to fall back to their own side of the stream. In the meanwhile Proskorovski had been superseded in his command on the Lower Danube by Prince Bagration; and this latter succeeded in August, 1809, in crossing the river near Galatz, and, the Turks offering no resistance, possessed himself of Isaktscha, Tultscha, Matchin, Hirsova, and finally also of Ismaila. Silistria, on the other hand, withstood every attempt to capture it until, owing to the difficulty of providing subsistence for the besieging forces, it became necessary, late in the year, once more to withdraw the Russian army across the Danube. At the opening of the campaign in the following year, 1810, the new commander-in-chief of the Russian force, Count Kamienski II., conveyed his army of 25,000 men and seventy-two guns across the river at Hirsova between the 10th and 14th of May. On the 25th of the same month General Sass crossed in boats at Turtukai, and seized that town; and on the 30th Count Zukatto also passed over the river to the north of Widdin. In the two following years, 1811 and 1812, the Russian armies constantly crossed and recrossed the river. Hirsova, strongly fortified and garrisoned by the Russians, served them as a *tele-de-pont* on the Turkish side of the river, and a bridge was also established and maintained at Turtukai. At the outset of the campaign of 1828-29 the Russians, crossing the Pruth in three columns on the 7th of May, reached the Danube on the 8th of June. The 3d Corps was to cross the river at Satunovo to the eastward of Isaktscha; the 7th Corps was to pass over at Ibraila; while the 6th, traversing Wallachia, was to cross the Danube in the neighborhood of Turtukai. The 6th Corps arrived at the river without having encountered any serious opposition in its passage through Wallachia; but every effort made by it to effect a passage across the Danube at Turtukai was in vain. The 3d Corps was more successful at Satunovo, and on the 8th of June a bridge was established there; while the 7th Corps having been delayed by the necessity of besieging and capturing Ibraila, did not succeed in crossing the river until after the capitulation of that place on the 17th of June. The history of the passage of the Danube during the Russo-Turkish war of 1853-55 is well known. On the 20th of March, 1854, 12,000 Russian troops were assembled at Ibraila under the command of Gortschakoff himself; 21,000 more were at Galatz, under Luders; and 14,000 were at Ismaila, under Utschakoff—all in readiness to cross the river. On the 21st of March the last-named general succeeded, despite unfavorable weather, in crossing the Kilian arm of the Danube in boats from Ismaila. On the 23rd General Luders' troops were transported to the right bank from Galatz, while Gortschakoff, having established a bridge of boats, moved his force across on the 26th of March.

FASHION NOTES

A NEW IDEA.—Last season, parasols were almost uniformly of one color; they are now made in plaid taffetas, or even in several colors. Some ladies of fashion have their parasols made in the same colors as the coat of arms and livery. This novel idea is considered rather a success.

HAT TRIMMING.—A new trimming for hats is of rose pink feathers and flowers. The hat is trimmed at one side only; the brim turned inward and lined to correspond on one side; on the other, raised and ornamented with flowers

which conceal the end of the feathers. In flowers the leaning is somewhat towards wild-flowers, such as coquelicots, bluets, wheat, daisies, marguerites, butter-cups, artemisias, &c.

SEASIDE MATERIALS.—Bunting more closely resembles a new class of material for seaside and travelling wear than anything else, only it is softer and more clinging; and another material goes by the name of seaside barege—a white woolen stuff, as cool as muslin, which is made up with handsome silk trimmings and with large square collars; a silk plastron in front, the bodice plaited below this, and worn with a Josephine belt.

COSTUMES.—The Princess costume, still steadily gaining favor, seems likely to continue greatly in vogue during our short summer months. Polonaises, very long, and caught up considerably at the back, will, with the Princess shape, prove (as far as we can judge) prevailing fashions. The *haute nouveauté* of the season consists in the new cambrics and lawns in fancy open-work pattern, to make tunics, which are worn with long trained skirts of faille, trimmed with ruches, plisses, or quillings.

LACE TRIMMING.—Lace is once more the most fashionable, as it is always the most beautiful of trimmings. While all silk mantles are trimmed with borders, ruchings, and quillings of Chantilly lace, a new kind of very fine and beautiful black woolen guipure is used for trimming the pretty little mantles of black cashmere, which are worn loosely tied in front. It is very simple, and the vastment most generally adopted this summer by young ladies, married and unmarried, unless they wear the small paletots of the same materials as the dress.

DINNER DRESSES.—For dinner dresses during the present warm weather there is nothing prettier than white muslin, trimmed with colored embroideries. Red is generally selected for the embroidery, which is arranged in bands down the polonaise, and in the front there is a cascade of Louis XIV. lace, studded with claret-red bows. The back is more difficult to describe, as it is a mysterious combination of lace, muslin, and embroidery; but on one side there is a large red bow. The white muslin shirt is trimmed with a plaiting of the same, barred longitudinally at regular intervals with strips of embroidery, the plaitings being partially concealed with lace.

PARASOLS.—The combinations brought about by ingenuity are endless, but in matters relating to dress these do not always commend themselves to judgement. Of new parasols, one intended to supersede all others has imbedded in the handle a minute Geneva watch. The button which contains the watch is lifted on a hinge by touching a catch spring, and really serves as the mount of a scent bottle. But this is not a tithe of what the handle is made to contain, and which it would be in vain to enumerate. The interior of the covers of these parasols is variously ornamented with a map of Europe, a symbolical view of the constellations, &c., which certainly appear attractive as beheld through the semi-translucent surface.

LITERARY.

MR. TENNYSON'S annual income from his works is about \$30,000.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY is editing a novel entitled "Marley Castle," which will shortly be published.

DR. J. G. HOLLAND has bought an island in the St. Lawrence River, and christened it "Bonny Castle."

M. ERNEST RENAN has published the fifth volume of his great work, "Histoire des Origines du Christianisme." It treats of the period between A.D. 74 and A.D. 117.

FRIEDRICH WILHELM HACKLANDER, the well-known German novelist, probably the most popular author of the present day in Germany, is dead. His writings published at present fill no less than sixty volumes.

MR. LONGFELLOW has the most complete private poetical library, it is said, which is to be found in the country. Scarcely any public library could be found which so fully represents this department of literature.

LEVY, of Paris, has just published a volume entitled "Mes Souvenirs," which gives a most curious and interesting picture of private life and life in the salons among the royalist aristocracy at the time of the Restoration.

DR. SAMUEL WARREN, the author of "Ten Thousand a Year," "Passages in the Diary of a late Physician," &c., is dead. His writings enjoyed great popularity. He was Queen's Counsel, and was twice elected to Parliament.

AN autobiography of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe is talked of for the next publishing season. It is said that the hoped-for work will prove the *Great Elbow* and his not less great cousin George Canning to have been in complete accord on the subject of Turkey.

MR. GLADSTONE, in an article contributed to the July number of the *Nineteenth Century*, quotes the well known words "the bubbling cry of some strong swimmer in his agony," and in a footnote intimates that they are to be found in "Childe Harold." He should have known that they compose the end of the 53rd stanza of the 2nd canto of "Don Juan."

THE Caxton Exhibition in London contained one curiosity there which seemed to attract the attention of visitors, and that is the famous "Wicked Bible." The "Wicked Bible" is so called from the fact that the *not* is omitted from the seventh commandment. It is said that only four of these "Wicked Bibles" are extant.

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