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the village. I have thought of this as the probable origin of the familiar cognomen by which the little settlement has been so long known. The place where the principal product of their industry was carried to be sold or bartered was really a "bay," probably the lower of two, which together



ON THE
ST. LAWRENCE.

embrace the peninsular point and neck upon which the village was first built, and which the venerable Chauncey Wescott, Esq.,* now the oldest inhabitant, informs me was the usual place where the timber for rafts was chiefly collected. So short and easy a title naturally transferred itself to the whole settlement, and so the village acquired the sobriquet which it seems destined now to retain. The collections of timber in various forms were annually floated by the merchants, who purchased them in large rafts, to the Montreal market. Later, and in fact up to about 1860, in the flourishing days of lake navigation, before the steamboats were superseded by the railroads on either side of Lake Ontario, it was a place for large shipments of produce from the interior.

Many thousands of bushels of grain and packages of dairy produce found their way to distant markets over its wharves. The cutting and gathering of wood for the supply of the steamboats which navigated the lake and river, was also a very important industry, the activity of which for a long period gave winter employment to a considerable part of the population, and enabled many of the neighboring farmers to pay for their land.

Alexandria Bay was incorporated as a village in 1878, with about six hundred inhabitants. It has now a permanent population probably of considerably over one thousand, most of whom are dependent upon the money left by summer residents and visitors for support.

But perhaps we are dwelling too long upon these local memories of the past, and you will be impatient for the enjoyment of the present in the commencement of our promised excursion. We will choose the afternoon trip as the one more generally patronized from this point, and on fine afternoons, as are most of these in summer on the St. Lawrence, it will be a real luxury to get away from the hotels and breathe freely the

*Died in 1896.