

certain they are that malice's baleful breath will easily stain the fairest reputation.

I am apt, therefore, to believe that there is some mistake in the information, and shall proceed as usual till I receive official intelligence from the Hon'ble Board.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,
Your most obed't & very hb'le Serv't,

JAMES FRASER, Missionary.

The Indian village at Maductic naturally attracted the early attention of the New England Company. From time immemorial it had been a favorite camping ground with the Maliseets. Here they had received instruction at the hand of the Jesuit missionaries, and were even honored by a visit from Bishop St. Valier, of Quebec. Here Rena'd' Amour, Sieur de Clignancourt, and other traders bargained with the simple forest children, giving them in exchange for their furs and peltry, French goods, trinkets, rum and brandy. Here Villebon and his compatriots harangued their savage allies ere they departed to wage relentless warfare against the New England settlements in the numerous expeditions undertaken during the prolonged contest between England and France for the sovereignty of Acadia.

A glance at the map will show that the place was naturally a rendezvous for the Indians. It lay midway between their other settlements on the upper and lower St. John. Communication could readily be had with Quebec on the one hand and with the Eastern portion of New Brunswick on the other, by means of the St. John river and its principal tributaries. To the westward communication was maintained with the Indians of Passamaquoddy, Penobscot and Kennebec by means of the numerous lakes and streams which afford a natural highway for the Indian and his light bark.

The site of the Maductic village is on the western bank of the St. John, about eight miles below the town of Woodstock and about four miles above the mouth of the *Medoctec*, or Eel river.

The number of Indians encamped at the place varied greatly from time to time in consequence of their migratory habits, but it frequently amounted to three or four hundred—men, women and children included. The place possessed great local attractions. The hunting in the vicinity was excellent, the river abounded with salmon, sturgeon, bass, trout and other fish, and the intervals and islands bordering the St. John were admirably adapted to the growth of Indian corn.

Cadillac, writing in 1693 (just two centuries ago), says of the St. John Indians: "They attend to the cultivation of the soil and grow the most beautiful Indian corn. Their fort is at Medoctek."

The fort referred to was an enclosure surrounded by a strong palisade erected upon an embankment, within which was a stoutly built cabin, in size about thirty by forty feet.*

When the Loyalists arrived the fort had fallen into decay, and according to the account given by Capt. John Munro, who visited the place in the summer of 1783, all that was visible was "the remains of an old breastwork sufficient to contain two hundred men." At that time the Indian church was yet standing and in a good state of preservation.

The Commissioners of the New England Company selected Frederick Dibblee as a suitable person to establish a school for the benefit of the Maductic Indians, and he proceeded to his post about the end of the year 1787. He apparently experienced little difficulty in securing the good will of the natives. Whatever may have been their prejudices against receiving instruction at the hands of an English teacher, the charms of the generous supplies of provisions and goods of sundry kinds with which he was provided by the bounty of the New England Company proved irresistible.

The writer has before him "an account of the distribution of the Necessaries received by order of the Honorable Board of Commissioners for the Native Indians settled at Maductic at different times, from the 24th of June, 1788, till the 15th November, 1789." The names of the heads of all the families are given. The Maductic settlement then included 98 men, 74 women and 165 children; in all 337 souls. The "necessaries" distributed among the Indians during the period mentioned (which was less than seventeen months), included Corn, 146 bushels; Beans, 14½ bushels; Potatoes, 23½ bushels; Pork, 592 lbs.; Salt, 82 quarts; Powder, 322 lbs.; Lead, 790 lbs.; Flints, 365; Blankets, 152; Hats, 12; Linen, 124 yards; Blue Stroud, 175 yards; Books, 12.

The amount expended for purely educational purposes by Mr. Dibblee certainly was not extravagant. The supply of "necessaries," however, paved the way for the establishment soon after of an Indian school.

The circumstances attending this step are recorded in the following letter written by Frederick Dibblee to Colonel Isaac Allen, a member of the Board of Commissioners:

* A fuller account of the Maductic fort and village will be found in the intensely interesting narrative of John Gyles, who was detained there by the Indians for six years (A. D. 1689 to 1695) as a captive. Gyles' narrative, with an introduction and notes by James Hannay, was published at St. John in 1875. It is a most important contribution to our knowledge of Indian life in the early days of the country and should be re-printed.

(To be continued.)