

fair weather, and a fair sprinkling of the fair sex—you know my weakness—to make the evening thoroughly enjoyable, and with all due *Vennor*-ation for the prophets, I think it only requires a peep at the face of the sky and at the faces of the ladies to assure ourselves of serenity in that point."

"Well doctor," said I, "what do people go to sea for but to see; doctors may go to *sea-sick* people, but I go to secure health and to do that I propose to be as *reck-less* as possible."

"We will *wave* that question," said the doctor, as it is a professional one, and I want to be relieved of all thoughts of aches, ails and weaknesses, and pills and poultices, unless it be a bread and milk poultice to be applied internally for weakness of the stomach."

"You may dismiss aches and weaknesses from your thoughts said I, "but as for *ails* I confess to a doubt about that, though if that is one of your weaknesses, perhaps a bottle of *stout* would not be suggestive of business."

"I protest," exclaimed the doctor, "against puns, during this trip they must be considered *pun-ishable* *of-fenses*, *wire* they not."

"You speak *iron-ically*," said I, "but now let us take time by the forelock and secure berths lest some other parties should exercise their selfish propensities by taking all the rooms and leaving us without any."

"We will not be accessory to their committing that sin," said the doctor, as he started for the steward's room.

Our party consisted of six, one of whom we styled the doctor, another the colonel, and Mac, Arthur, Charlie and myself, and Snider, Charlie's dog. We were fortunate enough to secure comfortable berths, and so, as the doctor put it, prevented others, who came on later, exercising their selfish propensities by appropriating them and leaving us out in the cold.

But as my space is limited I must not particularize. Suffice it to say here, the weather was delightful, the company jolly, the provisions good and abundant, Captain Morrison, the commander, and the mate, purser and steward, were uniformly courteous and obliging and spared no pains to render the passengers as comfortable as possible.

Our experience of the first night was what might be expected under the circumstances, with the external advantages of a beautiful sunset, bright moonlight, balmy air, and brilliant starlight. Early on the following morning we found ourselves at Goderich, after leaving which we had an opportunity to form some new acquaintances with our fellow passengers. Some of these were seeking health, which, judging from the practical way in which they praised the cook, you would think superfluous; some were in the pursuit of wealth or pleasure, and many were bound for the prairie province, which like the land of promise of old, always looks well from the Pisgah of a fertile imagination. As for ourselves, our object was a mixed one; recreation, relaxation, recuperation and curiosity combined, would perhaps express the motives of our journey. It was something analogous to the indefinite prayers we sometimes hear, that might all be summed up in the phrase "Lord bless us." We touched at Kincardine, Southampton, and "the Ducks." At the latter, a fishing station, I counted nineteen fishing smacks and two tugs, showing that fishing operations are here carried on on a somewhat extensive scale.

When we arrived at the Sault, our little troubles began. We required a boat for coasting, and no such boat as we wanted could be found. One party offered to accompany us with his boat for four dollars a day, but this not suiting either our tastes or our purses, we declined his kind offer, and finally took a boat which we afterward found to be too small for our purpose, this we took on board and continued our journey to Michipicoton island.

"What do you think, doctor," said I, after a general rush to dinner, about this practice of crowding to the first table so prevalent on the boats, when all cannot be accommodated with seats, do you not think it an unseemly practice?"

"Well," said the doctor, "people are hungry, and for my part I feel disposed to take the most *chair-at-table* view of the whole matter. Of course I am always ready to retire in favor of the ladies, but you see the handsome steward looks well after them, and so does the head waiter, especially if they are good looking; now if the steward or the waiters were ladies, some of us who are pretty attractive, and especially the colonel, would stand a fair chance, but as it is, it will not

do to stand too much upon ceremony, and as an amiable widow and her charming daughter sit next me at table, I feel in duty bound to see that they are properly waited upon."

"Now, doctor," said I, "I thought there was to be no punning on this trip, but that is the way with you doctors, you prescribe medicines and make pills for others, who make dolorous faces as they swallow them, and still more *dollar-ous* faces when they pay the bills, but when you want tuning up you take lake breezes, flirtations and good dinners; you know what is palatable medicine!"

At Michipicoton island we found evidences of extensive preparations for copper mining, in the shape of a portable saw mill, a fine tug, portions of heavy machinery, tramway iron, and telephone wire. The company, I was informed, had commenced operations with a paid up capital of £300,000 sterling.

The following forenoon we arrived at the end of our journey out, and were let down from the steamer about a mile from shore, opposite the Pukiswa river, and here we experienced our first mishap by the loss of one of our oarlocks, which was a patent affair, and not being properly secured, slipped from its place and went to the bottom, in consequence we had to paddle to the shore, and I am sure must have presented a curious spectacle to those on board the steamer, piled up as our luggage was in promiscuous confusion, and we piled up in a similar manner on top of it, slowly paddling for the shore.

Soon the steamer was lost to view, and we found ourselves in the little valley which extends back about a quarter of a mile up the little river known by the euphonious appellation of the Pukiswa or Pukasquaw, and known to some others as the location of a gigantic tin swindle some few years ago. We chose this location as the starting point of our operations on account of the reputation it had as a trout stream, and certainly its appearance as we entered the harbor did not belie the report. No finer stream for speckled trout could be imagined; but appearances are often deceptive. Some one else must have discovered that the finny tribe luxuriated in these waters, and it was the opinion of some of our party that they had been netted, and if what we heard of the plentifulness of trout there in former times were true, the *net* proceeds must have been considerable. One thing at least is certain, there are not many trout there now, or they were quite disinclined to accept such invitations to dinner as we were prepared to offer though we dropped them a *line* of invitation repeatedly. We did however have the pleasure of landing a few one and two pounders, which we need not say maintained their reputation for excellency when laid upon our primitive table of unsawn boards.

I was not greatly impressed with the section as a mineral region, though I confess my examination of it was exceedingly superficial. It is remarkable, however, what a variety of natural productions we here discovered in the small space of an acre or two, constituting the level area of the valley. Here were wild peas, some of which I gathered and cooked, and found very palatable, wild onions (not leeks), red cherries, sand cherries, raspberries, strawberries (out of date), bilberries, an abundance of gooseberries, blueberries, and trout, pickerel, pike and partridge (in rather limited quantity).

We pitched our tent on a slightly inclining, smooth sandy beach at a reasonable distance from the water; but as we found reason in the matter of locating a tent is not always as safe a guide as experience, for, on the second day of our stay the river became wonderfully troubled, and as if dissatisfied with the ordinary course of nature, suddenly began to run up stream, then, as if nature had coaxed her into obedience to natural law, the flow would again resume its course outward. For a while we watched this playful caprice of the waters, but took the precaution to draw our boat up higher, and retired to our tent as it commenced raining, lazily enjoying the scene, and were just singing, "Shall we gather at the river," when suddenly the water again rushed up in a surging mass, took forcible possession of our tent, felt of our blankets, crept into our valises, set our boat and oars afloat, and began to carry off all movable things it could lay hands on. The Colonel and Charlie seeing one of the oars floating out jumped into the boat and endeavored to overtake it, but the water was too quick for them, the current had turned, and down the stream the oar went and the boat after it with the speed of a mill race, heading for the white capped breakers, which seemed