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CROSSING THE ST. LAWRENCE IN WINTER.

We in Canada generally prepare ourselves to meet the extremities of temperature, for the forties below zero in winter and the nineties above in summer. Those who clothe themselves at one time of the year in warm furs, adopt the light and airy serge at another time. But these furs of to-day are not such as weighted down our predecessors of thirty years ago; the ponderous cap has given way to the lightest possible substitute, and the oppressive coat which prohibited all walking is replaced by one whose weight is a bagatelle. But, although we must endure in this Canada of ours the extremes of cold and heat, we still have consistency. A glance at the sky and the direction of the wind, and one can tell pretty closely what kind of weather is to prevail during the next two or three days. We are not, as in England, misled by a beautiful sunshiny morning into the belief that slip coats and umbrellas are unnecessary, and find out in two or three hours afterwards that a steady down-pour has set in for the afternoon. Nor do we issue from our houses laden with overproofs to face the rain storm, and melt in the afternoon under a sultry heat. Our weather does not snare us into any such delusions; when it rains

it rains; when it is fine it is fine. And these forties below zero are they not often enjoyable; can we not wrap up and exclude the cold infinitely better than the Englishman can, even when his thermometer stands only at zero? The bitter east wind and chilling, searching blasts of the fog-surrounded island cannot be kept from freezing his very marrow, by any amount of clothing, the dampness of the atmosphere enters his very soul. And our nineties are not oppressive; they do not prove as enervating as eighty in the mother country; there is not the killing and choking sultriness in our heats as oppress the "Stay at home Briton." But there are times and circumstances when the most inured to cold must feel its intensity, and such now and then occur when crossing the St. Lawrence River between Quebec and Levis during the coldest of months, January and February. Some years ago the only possible means of transit was by canoe; but the advance of science has had the effect on lethargic Quebec to induce the running of steamers in winter, so that now one can sit in a comfortably heated cabin and cross without the slightest inconvenience. But steamers, like many other articles, are subject to breakage,