

It is something to remember for a lifetime is a trip to the shores of this the most vast and most interesting of all our inland seas. The cool temperature, fully ten degrees below that of Lake Ontario, and the thickly wooded hilly shores rising occasionally into mountains, the pointed rocks of the South border, the vast rocky promontory of Cape Thunder with its neighboring rocky islands and rising settlement at the beginning of the Dawson Road, the singular rocky island under the lee of the Cape which has proved a mass of silver ore, the vast and wonderful expanse of Nepigon Bay, studded with rocky and timber-crowned islands, a very dream of romance and beauty, the wild solitudes of the Nepigon River, the beautiful Michipicoton Island rising with its woods and groves some 800 feet out of the Lake,—all these combine to make the trip to Lake Superior quite unique and unparalleled. Day after day the steamer wends and winds her way amongst the mazes of the islands of the Georgian Bay (of which 30,000 have been counted), and under the shadow of the mighty rocks of Lake Superior, the voyage having all the incidents of ocean travel without its excessive monotony, and generally without its accompanying sickness. Every hour brings change of scene. The bracing air inspires the appetite. Fish are caught on the way in abundance. Here and there passengers can land in some romantic out-of-the-world kind of spot, and wander about picking up strange mosses, pebbles, agates, and what not; or, if it pleases them better, they can fish. The social intercourse takes place that always arises on an ocean voyage. Intimacies arise, and friendships are formed. Evenings are spent in music and social enjoyments, and when the long and varied voyage is brought to an end, and the little world of the steamboat has to be broken up, there are few but must regret that all is over, and wish for a renewal of such pleasant scenes.

Nature has indeed been bountiful to us in these latitudes. Not only is everything abundantly bestowed which is requisite for subsistence, but the cravings which invariably accompany leisure and education are

bountifully provided for. The beautiful and the sublime are both to be found along our borders, and it is good, at this season, to leave for a time, if at all possible, the crowd, the rush, and the worry of our business life (to which may be added the cares of domestic life also), and commune with Nature in her varied moods of calm and storm, and take in the sweet influences of sky and air and cloud, and sunrising and sunseting, and lake and river and waterfall, and voyaging and canoeing and fishing, and—so to put it—of idling and day-dreaming.

It is, however, not wise to make a mere change from one form of excitement to another. It is much to be doubted whether any true recreation is obtained at the crowded resorts of fashion where elaborate dressing wearies and distracts, and where late hours, hot rooms, and heavy crowds make larger demands on our powers of endurance than the heaviest strain of business.

There is much excitement in Ontario over the candidature for an important office in her School system. A gentleman whose relations with his former wife ended in so unsatisfactory a manner that a divorce was the result, is one of the parties nominated, and a violent controversy has broken out in the papers about him. It is unfortunate that the controversy has taken a political turn, though what possible bearing the matter can have on politics it would puzzle the most acute intellect to see. But the fact of a leading Liberal paper having taken exception to the candidate—not at all on political grounds—seems to have been sufficient reason for the leading Conservative journal to espouse his cause. Nothing can be more unfortunate.

In a matter like this, the personal qualifications of the candidates are alone worthy of consideration, and, to say the truth, the controversy is ostensibly waged entirely on personal grounds. But it is a controversy between two rival party papers for all that; and when the time comes for votes to be given, it is inconceivable, after all that has taken place, that party preferences, or say newspaper predilections, will not largely influence the result.