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How History Should Be Made.

The Traditions of the People Must
Be Perpetuated.

(H. F. SHORTIS.)
(Concluded.)

Newfoundlanders are essentially a fact that the principal events related in history were handed down by tradition, before finding a place in written history. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary for any person attempting to write the history to go amongst the people, to associate with them, to become acquainted with their habits, manners and customs, and to get them talking, in order to have them relate the traditions of their country. They are rich in tradition. The deeds and adventures of our early settlers have been preserved from generation to generation, and handed down from father to son. The real history of Newfoundland is preserved in the tradition of her people. It is only from this source that we can learn of the bravery and heroism of her sons. Tradition unfolds to us a story of their determination and pluck—their self-sacrifice—their almost super-human powers of endurance, and their dauntless courage. Their love of adventure to-day is amply illustrated in the prosecution of the seal fishery. There are hundreds of young men in the outports who use every effort to obtain a berth to the ice, who are well provided for, and who are in no wise compelled to go to the ice for the pecuniary returns; but their romantic love of adventure induces them to go on this hazardous voyage, guided with a will to the love of the chase and its consequent dangers, than for any material gains derived therefrom.

WEALTH OF MATERIAL.
In the people of Newfoundland there is to be found the material for writing history—a history that would be of intense interest, as an example of what a determined and self-sacrificing race of men can accomplish in the face of the greatest possible difficulties. The collector of data will answer: "This is a thing hard to accomplish, considering the absence of records." If the fathers of history had not about the year 1497, the world to-day would be indelibly marked by the knowledge that the people of Newfoundland had been there. There is one source of knowledge which has never been tapped by our historians, and that is—tradition. It is absolutely futile to attempt the history of a new country, and, for that matter, of any country, without consulting the traditions of its people. No new country keeps a written record of its traditions. The struggle to live at first shores all their attention, and they have something else to do besides, jotting down every event in their early life. Yet all information, even by the most remote stages of the settlement of Newfoundland, is easily available. It is a well-known fact that a people who are not capable or accustomed to noting down events, have a most retentive memory. This is owing to the fact that they depend solely on their memory as a guide to the past, and the result is the marvellous retentiveness of the minds of such a people.

A WELL DEVELOPED TRAIT.
The people of Newfoundland have this trait strongly developed within them, and, as a consequence, they are possessed of a fund of the traditions of their country. The writer of Newfoundland history, to be a success, must consult the traditions of her people; without that all efforts in any other direction will be absolutely useless. As I have remarked, if the fathers of history had consulted their own impoverished would be the history of nations. The rise and fall of the empires of the West were not witnessed by the historians, who related these events. They had to consult the traditions of the people of whom they wrote, and there is no getting over the

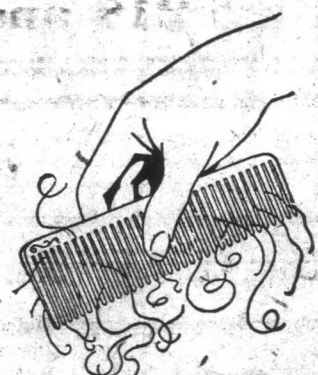
he could recommend a good man, who would be capable of taking charge of the seal fishery. The old skipper turned round, and pointing to the man with the bag of bread on his back, unhesitatingly replied: "There is your man." The merchant having full confidence in the old skipper's judgment, immediately sent for the man and engaged him on the spot. The result of his first voyage fully justified the confidence the old skipper placed in him, as he brought in nearly 6,000—was the first to arrive, and was afterwards a most successful sealing master.

EFFICIENCY FIRST.
A man who is observant, going on board a sealing vessel, cannot but admire the tact and discrimination displayed in selecting the men for responsible trust. Every man fits into his place with mathematical precision. In every case the master-watchman, the bridge-man, the barrel-man, are found to be selected with a view to perfect efficiency. In every case these men are tried, trained, implicitly trusted, and the result and the are aware of all this, and get under the deputies as they would under the man in supreme command.

I do not wish it to be supposed that I am finding fault with history written from documents. I contend that such history is incomplete, without embodying the characteristics of the people of the country under review. Their growth and progress from an insignificant colony to the dignified position of a factor in the Empire—the vicissitudes and difficulties of a nation in evolving itself from the embryo—are not matters of record. At such a period the struggle to survive engages all their attention. Where then are we to look for material to write our history? My answer is from the traditions of the people themselves. Having made a life-long study of our countrymen, and possessing, as I flatter myself I do, a thorough knowledge of them, I feel perfectly satisfied that the story of our country has to be evolved from the storehouse of the tenacious memory and tradition-loving habits of our people.

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THE HOPEFUL VIEW.

Things are looking pretty black, trouble everywhere we see, and we're prone to cry "Alack," and to murmur, "Hail, O, G. H. S.!" But there's comfort in the thought that they've looked that way before, and the passing seasons brought all things right side up once more. Now we weep and wring our hands, and denounce the doggone luck, or the people of all lands seemingly have run amuck. Statesmen do their little stunt in a rattled, loosed way, but the problems they confront will be solved some pleasant day. Crime and license seem to rule, seem to thrive in every town; let us keep our foreheads cool—everything will settle down. But there's nothing new in sight, nothing new in any clime; everything comes out all right if we only give it time. After every three-year war, every routine thing expires, and the evils we abhor were confronted by our sires. And our fathers doubtless said, as their sons remark to-day, that all righteousness was dead, and the furies were at play. But they lived to see the dawn of a good and wholesome time, when the bogies all were gone, with the seething wave of crime. And our troubles too will cease as the seasons run their course, and we'll boost the dove of peace till our larynxes are hoarse.

POINTING THE MORAL.
I will relate here one of the numerous stories that I am acquainted with, as an illustration of the fact. A former merchant, on a certain occasion, found himself in need of a master for one of his vessels. In conversation on the wharf he mentioned the fact to a successful and prominent old sealing master. At the time the merchant was speaking to the old skipper, one of his own crew was going on board a vessel with a bag of bread on his back. The merchant asked the old skipper if

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Agents.

With such delight to greet the morning?

Sometimes I hear them quit their bed
And catch their bare-foot plitter-patter.
And other times they're at my head.
Before I know what is the matter.
Brigands to rob us of our sleep
They come—their weapons love and laughter.
And though we're locked in slumber's deep,
They always get the joy they're after.

Some days there are when we would lie
And dream our dreams a little longer.
Then "back to bed awhile," we cry—
But oh, our love for them is stronger.
Yes, stronger than our wish to sleep
And so we countermand the order
And let that pair of brigands leap
With wild delight across love's border.

There may be happier times than this,
But if there are I've never known them.
When youngsters jump in bed to kiss
And wake the pa's and ma's who own them.
What if the sun be up or not,
Another perfect day is dawning.
And is it not a happy lot

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MORNING BRIGANDS.
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But if there are I've never known them.
When youngsters jump in bed to kiss
And wake the pa's and ma's who own them.
What if the sun be up or not,
Another perfect day is dawning.
And is it not a happy lot



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