

A PERILOUS ADVENTURE OF FRANCIS PARKMAN.

In *The Knickerbocker*, for 1845, there was a forcible realistic sketch by Francis Parkman, entitled "The Scalp Hunter," the leading incident of which is a piece of mountain-climbing, in which the vengeful settler, pursuing his one remaining Indian foe, reached a position from which advance or retreat was alike impossible. For Parkman's vivid description of the terrible climb he was indebted to a personal experience when a young man, which he communicated to Daniel Denison Shale, who now records it in *The New England Magazine*, September. The story is as follows:

"It was during our sojourn of several days at Crawford's Inn, then situated in the very Notch of the White Mountains, that one day, suddenly and unknown to me, Parkman left early in the morning, and did not return until evening. The condition which he presented betokened the perilous adventure of the day. His clothing was badly torn, his fingers were lacerated, and his legs showed injuries which had been caused in almost superhuman exertions in the preservation of his life. After walking down the Saco Valley as far as the Willey House, he entered upon an exploration of the chasm which had been produced by the slide which had come down from the Willey Mountain, directly behind the cottage, at this time in good preservation. Climbing over the vast amount of debris, consisting of rocky fragments and enormous boulders, brought down at the time when the Willey family was swept away, he arrived at the entrance of the defile with its precipitous sides. Glancing upward, he determined without much forethought to gratify his strong desire to overcome such natural obstacles and so to test his physical powers, as well as his moral courage. In his diary he says:

"I began to climb, and with considerable difficulty and danger I surmounted both precipices. I climbed on, but finding that I was becoming drenched by the scanty stream, and seeing moreover a huge cloud not far up settling slowly toward me, I bethought me of retracing my steps. So I began to descend the ravine, nothing doubting that I should find some means of getting out before reaching the critical point. But it was impossible, and I found myself at the top of the precipice, with no alternative but to slide down or to clamber the perpendicular and decaying walls to the surface of the mountain. The former was certain destruction, and the other method was scarcely less dangerous, but it was my only chance, so I braced my nerves and began to climb. . . . I had got half-way up, and was clinging to the face of the precipice, when the two stones which supported my feet loosened and leaped down the ravine. My finger-ends among the disintegrated rock were all which sustained me, and they of course would have failed, had I not thought on the instant of lowering my body gradually, and so diminishing its weight until my feet found new supports. I sank the length of my arms, and then hung for the time in tolerable safety, with one foot resting on a projecting stone. Loosening the hold of one hand, I took my large jack-knife from my pocket, opened it with the assistance of my teeth, and dug with it a hollow among the decayed rock, large enough to receive and support one foot. Then thrusting the knife as far as possible into the wall to assist my hold, I grasped it and the stones with the unoccupied hand, and raised my foot to the hollow prepared for it. Thus foot by foot I made my ascent, and in ten minutes, as time seemed to me, I seized a projecting root at the top and drew myself up. During the entire time of climbing I felt perfectly cool, but when fairly up I confessed I shuddered as I looked down at the gulf I had escaped."

"Although little reference was afterward made to the perils which he had undergone, the remembrance of the event was always carefully cherished by him, until it had found expression, a few years after in the story [*The Scalp Hunter*] above mentioned."—*Literary Digest*.

Bishop Hurst, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, has come back from Europe with the opinion that "the so-called liberal theology of Germany is on the wane, the tide of education being toward the evangelical standards."

Public Opinion.

Hamilton Herald: What a load of good advice the Patrons are getting nowadays. There is not a newspaper in the country that is not telling them how to do things. And, of course, the newspapers are almost as disinterested as the Patrons themselves.

Manitoba Free Press: Our Ottawa correspondent draws attention to the fact that the revised voters' lists cannot be printed before June next and therefore a general federal election is not possible until that time. Another session of parliament may be regarded as a certainty, but the date of the election will be set to suit the government.

Ottawa Citizen: We desire to extend our trade with the populous and wealthy nation to the south, and as it is extended it will become increasingly beneficial to both parties. For this reason we naturally sympathize with the Democratic party. At the same time, when the Republicans have made up their minds that they wish to improve the commercial relations of the two countries, they will find themselves heartily welcome at Ottawa.

Halifax Chronicle: We simply ask that the Liberal party and the Liberal leaders should be judged by their record of political cleanliness and economical management while in office, by what we know of them individually as men of ability and untarnished personal and political character, and by the declaration of principles which they have adopted as their platform, and for which they have contended with unshaken fidelity during the past sixteen years.

Canadian Manufacturer: Free traders are fond of quoting Ricardo where he points out that we cannot control other tariffs, but we can control our own, and the first duty of a citizen is to aid in reducing the one over which he has power. The whole statement is a mistake. Reciprocity is based upon the influence which a country has over others by means of its own tariff. But English and other free-traders would give to foreign countries equal privileges in their own markets, with their own citizens, who are meantime denied admission to the markets of the countries they are willing to treat so kindly.

Quebec Chronicle: The new leader of the Local Opposition in Ontario, Mr. G. F. Marter, stands a chance of alienating from his party, the Roman Catholic vote altogether. This looks like a serious mistake in tactics, and it may lead to a new choice of Chieftain. Mr. Marter is an uncompromising opponent of Separate Schools, and has pledged himself to abolish them, if it can be done by constitutional means. He violently assailed the political attitude of the Roman Catholic Church, at London, the other night, while making a speech in behalf of his candidate for the Legislature, in succession to Mr. Meredith, who represented that constituency. Mr. Marter's course is criticised, and mischief is expected to grow out of it.

St. John Gazette: We do not wonder that good men desire christian unity throughout the world but we do wonder that intelligent men should ever expect its consummation. The Roman Catholics will never abandon the distinctive features of their faith, and these features will never be accepted by any considerable number of Protestants. The Ritualist will not give up his ritualism; Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Plymouth Brethren, Unitarians and Protestants of other creeds will rarely become ritualists. In a spiritual sense church unity is something like a federation of all of the English speaking people of the world in a temporal sense; both are grand dreams, but the world will have to be better, far better, than it is, before sects will abandon sectarianism and take Christ's simple utterance for their guide, and before the nations will give up their plots for self-aggrandizement and unite for the furtherance of a common destiny.

Numerous petitions have been received by the Pope from Switzerland, Austria and Germany praying him to call a conference to consider the best means of abolishing the Monte Carlo gambling establishment.

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