

## "NUTS AND RATIONS."

Spring having arrived and established herself in all her pristine beauty, invites us to partake of the many gifts she has to offer. The country surrounding St. Johns is at its best just now. Why so many men choose to hang around the town, to the utter confusion of the fair ladies, passes our understanding, when the open country offers such opportunities for the enjoyment of Nature, at the same time combining both pleasure and profit.

You have no need to be a student of Botany or Zoology,—knowledge of the Latin names of trees, plants, birds, beasts, or fishes is not necessary, to get this enjoyment, which is to be had first hand, by all who wish to take it. A walk along the tow path by the Chambly Canal, is calculated to fill you with enough oxygen to combat the onslaught of a million (or more) microbes of the mumps and measles variety. From here the prospect of Mount Johnson and Rougemont, can be enjoyed amidst pleasant surroundings.

If you are a follower of Isaac Walton, you can try your luck by tempting the voracious pike or the wiley and graceful perch. If you know your Wordsworth, your Cowper, or your Alfred Austin, you will increase your enjoyment, for the chances are that one or more of these poets will supply you with a phrase or a verse to fit exactly into the view now lying before you.

But perhaps you don't care for the river, with its ever ringing invitation to follow it through its many and devious courses, over its rapids and weirs, through its leafy arches, or to wash the flanks of the dreamy cattle, now taking delight in its coolness, upon some marshy shore. You do not care perhaps to put your thoughts upon the barque of your imagination and go with it through its miles of hurry and scurry, its tranquility and quiet, until it reaches the broad and mighty Ocean, beyond which lies,—what?

(The mind of the reader can picture for himself; he is acquainted with his own country lanes, or city streets.)

We invite him for a walk into Iberville, which, as you all know, is a village on the East side of the Richelieu, from St. Johns. You can be away from the town with its dust and noise and its questionable attractions in the short space of about fifteen minutes. You pass through the village with its up to date Post-office and stores. You comment, without unkindness or odious comparison, upon its rural gardens, in all stages of cultivation, and heigh presto! you are in the Country, with fields stretching away upon either side of you. Here are woods inviting in their coolness, quaint wells, shrines of a bye gone day, well kept farm houses, and sleek cattle. Your eyes will be charmed with the picture, which, like the kaleidoscope, changes at every turn. Your ear will be delighted by the song of bird, or the lowing of cattle. Your olfactory organ will be greeted by the odor of hawthorn, and plum, and apple blossom and other odoriferous plants, and the feeling of freshness and rest will be upon you.

Thus having brought into use four out of our five senses,—(and it is only by the exercise of them separately or collectively that we derive pleasure to ourselves),—we would draw your attention to the means whereby the fifth sense (and to some people the most important) can be indulged. After crossing into Iberville, turn along Napier Street on the left. A short and pleasant walk through this the principal street of the village, will take you to the C. P. R. Bridge, pass under it and the next turn on the right brings to your view one of the most delightful and picturesque Old English Churches to be seen in this part of the country. Toward the North East lie Rougemont and Mount Johnson. On the South, is a small copse, which offers shade an drest, and on the West a Lawn, upon which the Ladies of Iberville are holding a Red Cross Lawn Social today (Saturday, 1st June). Here they intend to tempt your gastronomic taste by offering viands of the choicest, (the making of which has made them famous for miles around), and ice cream, tea, coffee, cake, etc., can be had to satisfy the most fastidious. The object is worthy of support by itself, but the added presence of the ladies, makes it doubly so. Go over and enjoy yourself. Saturday afternoon. PAT.



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