

**Our Rivers and Lakes.**

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No spell could stay the living tide  
Or charm the rushing stream.

Leyden.

In the second chapter of this series "our coasts" were considered, and in that which followed it, "our mountains and hills." These are connected with each other through "our lakes and rivers," which are equally full of interest and instruction.

Mountains, rivers and the sea are three connected parts of the earth's distillatory apparatus. From the waters of the coast comes the supply of moisture which, driven by the winds, falls as rain or snow, especially where these winds, by blowing over elevated land, have their temperature reduced. It is the sun which lifts the waters into the air, thus giving them what the physicists call "energy of position:" the hills and mountains are the condensers which cause the air to drop its load; it is gravity which causes the precipitated waters to flow back to the source from which they came, at the same time enabling them, by the energy set free, not merely to float our lumber and turn our water wheels, but also to cut into and to carve, more or less deeply, the surfaces over which they flow.

There are few natural phenomena more interesting than those connected with running water. They give to natural scenery a beauty which we never fail to miss when they are absent. They are the most life-like of all natural processes, and, taken together, illustrate a history, ever varying in detail, which if we choose to follow it out, shows the most singular parallels with that of human beings. Thus a river has its *birth*, in the womb of mother earth; it has its *infancy*, characterized merely as a time of gathering strength; its *youth*, impetuous, noisy and headstrong, defying all obstacles, not easily turned aside, carving its way with but few intervals of rest; its *maturity*, when, its work mostly done, it moves slowly and majestically upon its determined way; its period of *old age*, when, having reached the sea level and lost the energy which it at one time had, it no longer works, but drops its load, assuming now the appearance of a calm repose. It may even have its *second childhood*, when, through the elevation of the region which it traverses, its power of doing work is for a time again renewed. Streams, like men, have also their conflicts and adventures, their struggles for existence, followed by survival or extinction, as they may or may not be able to adapt themselves to changed conditions. Finally they may, in a sense, be not only dead, but

"buried," as has happened with many of the rivers of America.

Let us now see how far these parallels find illustration in connection with the rivers of Acadia.

Few countries are more thoroughly watered than the province of New Brunswick. Travel where you will within its borders and you are never very far from a water course. Take a good map of the province and you will find that, like the arteries and veins of the body, streams, large or small, traverse every portion of its area. Of these, about four hundred miles are navigable by steam, at least an equal amount in addition is navigable by canoe, and an almost indefinite number are large enough to be available for the driving of lumber. Connected with these are numerous lakes, more than forty of them exceeding a mile in length, and, where not in close proximity to settlements, abounding with fish and game, offering great attractions to the sportsman and tourist. Cascades also are numerous, affording great and widespread opportunities for the employment of water power in manufacturing operations or the development of electricity.

In Nova Scotia, owing largely to its more limited extent, no point being more than fifty miles distant from the sea, the streams, though numerous, are less important. The lakes, also, though very abundant, are usually of small size and little depth.

If now we attempt to institute a comparison between the rivers of Acadia—a most fascinating study, especially if based upon personal acquaintance and exploration—we shall first have to consider the places and circumstances of their *birth*. These are naturally, for the most part, remote from settlements, being upon the higher grounds constituting the "divides" between the natural slopes of the surface, and often densely forest clad. They will also be found, in the great majority of instances, to originate in lakes or ponds. These are gathering grounds for more or less considerable areas, and, in addition to brooks or rivulets, are themselves fed, like the latter, by springs, the discharges of which, owing to the coolness of the waters, are always sought by sportsmen as affording the best opportunities for fishing. These springs are occasionally of large dimensions, one, at the head of the Tobique lakes, being especially remarkable, covering an area of nearly half an acre, with water of exceptional clearness and purity, and a temperature which, even in midsummer, is not more than 42°. On the other hand, where streams originate from or pass through boggy land, they are apt to have the dark colour