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THE OTTAWA.

AS this noble river is the dividing line between the two Counties to the history of which this volume is devoted, and, moreover, is the stream upon which thousands of their inhabitants have toiled for the maintenance of themselves or families, it naturally deserves more than a passing notice.

Fine, charming, beautiful, lovely, wonderful river, are expressions any one or all of which may be heard daily on the steamers which ply its waters; and extravagant and ridiculous as seem these adjectives when applied to many objects, no one ever regards them inappropriate when applied to the Ottawa.

Coming from the far North, from regions almost unknown, there is a certain mystery about it, which awakens our curiosity and engenders a spirit of romance. While its beautiful islands and the picturesque scenery of its shores are continually demanding our admiration, as we ascend its current, its breadth is an ever-present source of wonder.

From the moment we leave Lake St. Louis, where it unites with the St. Lawrence, till we have passed two hundred miles beyond the Dominion Capital, we look in vain for any perceptible decrease of its breadth and volume; there is the same oft-recurring change from river to lake, from lake to river. The Ottawa is emphatically a river of lakes, and of the last fifty miles of its course, they form no small proportion.

Scarcely have we left Lake St. Louis, ere we enter the beautiful Lake of Two Mountains, every square rood of whose shores is replete with historic interest. Leaving this, we are soon on the expansive bosom of St. Placide Bay, and anon on Rigaud Bay, each vying with the other in beauty and area, as well as in the importance of its historic associations. And thus we may sail, seeing river after river, and some of them large in size, adding their waters to those of the mighty Ottawa, without causing the slightest apparent difference in its size; indeed, it is said that it is broader 80 miles from its mouth than it is after receiving twenty tributaries, and several of them such streams as the Gatineau, the Lièvre, the North and South Nations, the Rouge and the River du Nord. Wonderful indeed! But our interest increases as we cast our eyes along the history of the past, and see the important events with which the Ottawa has been connected. It was the highway of the early French explorers,