

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1892.

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OAK HALL.

King Street, St. John.

OAK HALL

FENCING IN THE RIVER.

A ST. STEPHEN ALDERMAN BUILDS ON THE END OF A STREET.

The Town's Solicitor Says he has no Right to a Free Lot, but the Council Dreads a Lawsuit—Now it is Hard to Reach the River.

St. STEPHEN, July 5.—The early settlers on the St. Croix river made no mistake when they chose the site of the present town of St. Stephen for their new village of Morris-town. It is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the river and lies peacefully beside its neighbor the city of Calais, in the State of Maine. The two towns have much in common and should be one, and would have been but for the blundering of the boundary commission, whereby the United States got much valuable territory to which they had no right.

When the location of St. Stephen was settled it was made a home for the loyal refugees in 1784. Morrison, the king's surveyor, under the direction of the government of Nova Scotia, laid it out in garden lots on either side of what is now King street, and in farm lots of larger size farther back from the river. The lands along the river were reached by what is now called Water street, which ran from Morris-town to Milltown. These river lots were granted to Capt. Nehemiah Marks, of Derby, in the province of Connecticut, and his associates. To the east of the garden lots, a large block of land bordering on the river fell into the hands of Robert Pagan, Esq., while to the west of the garden lots was a tract held by Capt. Marks, and west of this again the land, a little later, came into the possession of Ninian Lindsay, Esq. The lumbering business soon sprang up in this well wooded district, such pine as was fit for masts for the king's navy being reserved by the crown. The place had many natural advantages and the population rapidly increased, and to accommodate new settlers, the owners of the property near the river began opening up the lands with streets and town lots. King street already ran to the river, and the end of it was reserved in the king's survey as a public landing. In course of time a wharf was built on it, and in latter years the justice of the peace, in annual session assembled, leased the premises to the St. Stephen branch railway at an annual rental of five dollars, renewable. At the expiration of this lease, such had been the progress of civilization that the public landing was under the control of the mayor and council of the incorporated town of St. Stephen, and under this body the lease was renewed to the New Brunswick railway for the same rental, with the provision that the railway should collect wharfage and pay it over to the town. This lease has now followed down to the Canadian Pacific railway, which body pays no rental, however, and collects the wharfage and keeps it.

There was another opening to the river in the early days. It was at the head of navigation where the river narrows, and a ferry was located there for the accommodation of those who would make friendly visits to their American neighbors, or transact a little business, unobstructed by rigid tariff laws and numerous vigilant officials to enforce them. The river at this spot is said to have been very beautiful, and one can imagine it to have been so, opening into a spacious cove above with the rapids in sight. One has to exercise imagination now, however, as the site of the ferry is disfigured by a relic of barbarism, known as the Ferry Point Toll bridge, the approach to which is flanked on either side by dog holes where a poor qual-

ity of the ardent is dealt out clandestinely to thirty souls from uncle Sam's territory. This institution is a reminder of the age when it was common for the traveller to have to halt frequently in his journey and draw the pennies from his pouch before the gate across the highway would be opened to him. Perhaps though, it is well to speak lightly of this condition of affairs as it still exists in Ontario, and I believe even in the city of Toronto, which is somewhat enlightened in other respects, there is still a toll gate in active existence. But there is nothing pleasing in the ugly, covered, wooden structure which took the place of the old ferry on the St. Croix. I might except the stockholders, to whom a dividend of 20 to 30 per cent. is rather good to take, but to the general public it is offensive to eye, nose and ear, and it shuts off the approach to the water at this point. The river was an important highway in the early days, and the means of approach to it were appreciated, so when Mr. Pagan laid out his block of land, he gave three streets, Duke, Church and Princess streets, to run to the river, and the ends were for landings for the public use. The streets were further apart in the upper end of the town. Through the Lindsay block only the street now known as Main street was laid out North and South, and it was public to the river as were the others named. At a later date Marks street was opened from Water street north.

As has been said, these streets were valued by the public, and public money was spent on them at times to make them passable. Especially was this the case with Main street, which was put in such shape that the fire engine could get to the river for water. So sadly have our civic rulers neglected their duties, however, that these means of approach to the river are all cut off, and the citizen who would go on the water for pleasure or profit, must forgo his trip or trespass on private property or enrich the coffers of the C. P. Ry. with a fee. First came the lease to the railway of the Public Landing, then the railway deliberately blocked the ends of the Pagan property streets with a wharf for its track, and a leading lumber mill of Calais further wharfed them up for piling ground, and now Main street, the only one remaining open, is being built on by a member of the town council. The mayor and council of last year took steps to prevent this being done and were joined by one of the adjacent property owners, and nothing was done last year toward building. Mr. Bonness, however, gave the owner of the property alongside a share with him in the street end, and succeeded in getting elected to the town council, and although the town solicitor tells the council that the public has the undoubted right of passage over the property, the board which the public elected to look after its interests refuses to interfere because it may entail an expensive lawsuit. The public are indignant, but as no one person is sufficiently interested to take legal proceedings to prevent the outrage, the erection of the building is progressing, and before another council can take the place of the present one, the building will be up and occupied, and the public may whistle. It is said that there is likely to be a general move in the way of building on the streets while there is a council in power who would rather allow it than spend any money to prevent it. In fact the movement has begun. Our local paper cried out loudly last year because the town bought some sewer pipe from a firm in which the mayor was a partner, and accepted the gift of some rocks for the road from a member of the council, but strangely enough in this case it is as dumb as an oyster. The present mayor is a large stockholder in the paper and the editor is employed to dispense law in the prosecution of cases before the police magistrate, and some are wicked enough to say that this has something to do with the paper's silence.

STRANGE APPARITIONS.

Almost Incredible. But the Truth is Vouched For.

Optical delusions, or delusions of the judgment conveyed through the sense of sight, are by no means uncommon, and many wonderful instances of what is known as "subjective sensation" have been recorded.

Although illusive visions are, no doubt, generally the product of a deranged nervous system, authentic cases have been known of persons in sound health and in complete possession of their faculties being subject to most startling appearances, for which no distinct cause could be found.

Sir David Brewster in his letters on "Natural Magic" gives some deeply interesting instances, and refers particularly to the case of a lady he knew, whose courage and strong mind alone prevented her from becoming a terrified believer in ghosts.

This lady was on many occasions the subject of illusive visions of great distinctness. One night, whilst sitting before the dressing glass in her bedroom, occupied in arranging her hair, she was suddenly startled by seeing in the form of a near relative who was then abroad, and, as she believed, in perfect health. The apparition appeared over her left shoulder, and its eyes met hers in the glass. It was enveloped in grave-clothes closely pinned round the head and under the chin, and though the eyes were open, the features were solemn and rigid. Sir David Brewster says that his friend described herself "as sensible of a feeling of fascination, compelling her to gaze upon the melancholy apparition," which, she said, was as distinct and vivid as any reflected reality could be, the light of the candle on the dressing table appearing to shine full on its face. After a few minutes she turned round to look for the form over her shoulder, but it was not visible, and it had also disappeared from the glass when she looked again in that direction.

On another occasion she was sitting in her room reading, when, on raising her eyes, she saw, seated in a large easy chair before her, the figure of her deceased sister-in-law. The figure was dressed, as had been usual with her, with great neatness, but in a gown of a peculiar kind, such as she had never seen her wear, but exactly such as had been described to her by a friend as having been worn by her sister-in-law during her last visit to England. She paid particular attention to the dress and appearance of the figure, which sat in an easy attitude in the chair, holding a handkerchief in one hand. She tried to speak to it, but experienced a difficulty in doing so, and in about three minutes the figure disappeared.

Sir David Brewster states that she told him she was fully aware of the delusive nature of the apparition. She described it as having all the vivid coloring and apparent reality of life; and for some hours preceding this and other visions she experienced a peculiar sensation in her eyes, which seemed to be relieved when the vision had disappeared.

Another case, quite as remarkable as those already related, occurred to a farmer in the north of England some years ago. He was returning home shortly after sundown one evening, when he saw, as he thought, his brother standing in the road a few yards in front of him. He noticed that he carried a gun, and that his face bore an expression of great pain and despair. The farmer was about to speak, when the figure seemed to fade away. The next morning the intelligence was conveyed to him that his brother had shot himself at the very hour the apparition had appeared to him.

A Year's Lynching in the States. Lynchers in America succeeded in executing, without any trial or legal ceremony, 195 criminals in 1891, against 126 in 1890 and 176 in 1889; the last named having, up to the past year, been the holder



of the record. The negroes again monopolized the majority of this list—their being 121 blacks, sixty-nine whites, two Indians, two Chinese, and one Mexican; and it is somewhat startling to see that among these there were six women, the previous year only numbering one female in this ghastly category. As regards the locality in which these peremptory vengeance are meted out, the South, of course, takes the lead—Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi heading the list with twenty-nine, twenty-six, and twenty-three lynchings respectively; while in the West, Arkansas and Montana come next on the list. The methods of Judge Lynch in executing his decrees are varied. There is no particular mode of execution as in carrying out sentences of the law; and the rope and the pistol are about evenly divided in popularity, while burning at the stake comes prominently into favor in cases of brutal outrage.

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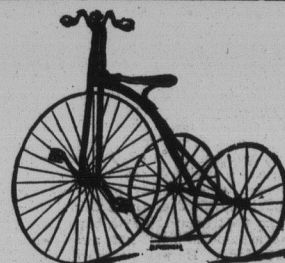
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