

attention to the Thousand Islands. Mr. George M. Pullman had, some years before, purchased an island nearly opposite Alexandria Bay, and had erected a spacious but rude cottage. On a bright day towards the close of July, a little yacht—perhaps the only one then on that part of the river—was seen steaming down the St. Lawrence. In the neighborhood of Alexandria Bay there were unusual signs of festivity. At Mr. Pullman's Island the steps were laid with carpet, the cottage and the Island front were gay with bunting, and everything indicated expectancy. The little yacht bore General Grant, with his family and a party of friends, who at Mr. Pullman's invitation were to spend a week among the beauties of the Thousand Islands. The visit of the President was heralded far and near. His daily movements, his trips among the Islands, his fishing exploits, were eagerly chronicled and read; and Alexandria Bay at once sprang into a prominence which it had not known before. In 1873 the large and handsome hotels at the Bay were opened, and a tide of tourists and pleasure-seekers began to pour in. At once there was an increased demand for Island property, and the sales which began so briskly in 1872 have continued, until at present all of the better islands are owned and occupied, and only a few desirable points remain upon the mainland or on Wells Island. Tens of thousands of people now spend their Summers among the Thousand Islands, either in their own cottages or at hotels. The river from above Clayton to several miles below Alexandria Bay is dotted with summer-houses, all of them pretty, many of them expensive and elegant, comparing well in variety and beauty with those of any other Summer resort in the country.

THE CHARMS OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.

Nature has done so much here to charm the eye that the art of man can add little or nothing to the scene. "Civilization, as it shows itself among the Thousand Islands, is not intrusive. It rather heightens than detracts from the total impression." In wild beauty, in grace and boldness of outline, in form and color, in beauty near at hand or in distant prospects, in infinite variety, and in the endless combinations of land and water views, it must be admitted that the Thousand