

and presents an appearance not at all promising; the stream flows through a narrow passage with perpendicular hills rising on both sides to a height of several hundred feet in places; as you ascend, however, the appearance of the banks undergoes a change—the river itself widens out, and beautiful river flats stretch away on both sides.

A brief description of the nature of my work as a catechist, on this river, may serve to show the character of the work required to be performed in occupying the waste places I have mentioned as lying within the bounds of the St. John Presbytery, and especially such places as are only being now settled. When I first visited the district, the road only extended to Arthuret, or the Campbell settlement, as it was then called, (the name Arthuret having been given by Governor Gordon when on his "Wilderness journeys,")—a distance of about twenty miles from where the river enters the St. John. My predecessor at Woodstock, the Rev. H. J. McLardy, accompanied me to the scene of my labors, having himself visited it once or twice before. Above Arthuret, settlements extended along the river at that time to the Blue Mountains, a distance of about thirty miles: they now extend beyond Nictaux. With gun and knapsack, I traversed the woods which separated the settlements on the upper part of the stream. I soon learned, also, to use the pole and paddle, and although any one of the settlers was quite willing to let his axe in the tree, or his scythe in the grass, to give me a passage up or down the river in his canoe, I determined to "paddle my own canoe"; and in a birch which I purchased from the Indians, who have a village at the mouth of the river, I navigated the stream from the narrows where it enters the St. John to Nictaux,—a distance of sixty miles. Once every three weeks,—holding service at seven different points, on the river or out on one of the ridges, I went from Riley brook, six miles below the Nictaux (or Forks), to Andor, a village on the St. John, opposite the mouth of the Tobique. From Riley brook to Arthuret, a distance of forty miles, there being no road, I went by canoe, or partly by canoe and partly on foot through the woods. From Arthuret to Andover, I generally went on horseback, sometimes, however, on foot, a distance of twenty miles—an American Sabbath day's journey performed between the forenoon and evening service. Many incidents happened during the two summers of my labour, some amusing enough, others more amusing when recalled by memory than at the time of their occurrence. Once or twice, unable to make headway against the stream while opposed by wind and rain, I have in all night with gun resting on my arm under the upturned canoe, or at the foot an old giant of the forest,—the dried remains of some of his contemporaries serving the double purpose of affording warmth and keeping at a respectful distance any unwelcome visitors, of whom I frequently got a sight. Twice was my many wardrobe materially damaged—once by the camp fire, before which the contents of the carpet bag were spread to dry, and once by the greedy jaws of an ox, who had ferreted it out from its cache in my upturned canoe. I have occupied the school-room at Arthuret, and the little Methodist church at Anver, when, if the discourse delivered was dry, he who delivered it could certainly not be accused of being so,—having been upset in the river from the canoe long before, and standing before his audience before he had time to change or dry his clothes. Before my going there as a catechist, the upper part of the Tobique had never been visited by a missionary from any denomination; and, although I had a local preacher following in my track, I am sorry to say that, since my departure, even he has not revisited it. After being ordained as a missionary at Woodstock, I managed to pay a visit, in the winter of , to the old scene of my labours as a catechist; and by the people among whom, as a student, I had gone two years before, I was welcomed most heartily, and not a few were the tears shed when they found that I could spend but a week going over the whole district. I preached in nearly all the old static going and coming, and