

TRIP UP THE OTTAWA.

Ottawa's tide! this trembling moon
Shall see us float over thy surges soon.
Salute of this green isle! hear our prayers,
Oh! grant us cool heavens and favoring airs,
Blow, breezes, blow, the stream runs fast,
The rapids are near, and the daylight's past.

Started from St. Anne's you shortly reach a beautiful expansion of the Ottawa—which forms here what is called **THE LAKE OF THE TWO MOUNTAINS**—named from the two mountains which are seen to the north, rising four hundred to five hundred feet high.

After sailing a short time, and with your face to the bow of the steamer, you will observe, to the right, where this great river—coming slowly and silently along—is divided by the Island of Montreal; the one fork of the river which you observe to the north-east, winding its way past the island, after which it makes its acquaintance with the St. Lawrence, to the north-east of Montreal. The other fork, or division on which you have just started from, at St. Anne's, meets the St. Lawrence there; although, strange to say, the waters of these two immense rivers—as if not relishing the mixture of each other, and thus forming one—continue their separate and undivided distinctness for miles, till they meet with such rough treatment, from either torrents, wind, or waves, that they join issue, and form at last, one immense river in the St. Lawrence, in which the beautiful but majestic Ottawa is swallowed up.

In the last report on the Geological Survey of Canada, the following remarks on the component parts, and other peculiarities, of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence occur:—

“The water of the Ottawa, containing but little more than one-third as much solid matter as the St. Lawrence, is impregnated with a much larger portion of organic matter, derived from the decomposition of vegetable remains, and a large amount of alkalies uncombined with chlorine or sulphuric acid. Of the alkalies determined as chlorides, the chlorid of potassium in the Ottawa water forms thirty-two per cent., and in that of the St. Lawrence, only sixteen per cent.; while in the former, the silica equals thirty-four per cent., and in the latter, twenty-three per cent., of the mineral matters. The Ottawa drains a region of crystalline rocks, and receives from these by far the greater part of its waters; hence the salts of potash, liberated by the decomposition of these rocks, are in large proportion. The extensive vegetable decomposition, evidenced by the organic matters dissolved in the water, will also have contributed a portion of potash. It will be recollected that the proportion of potash salts in the chlorids of sea-water and saline waters, generally, does not equal more than two or three per cent. As to the St. Lawrence, although the basin of Lake Superior, in which the river takes its origin, is surrounded by ancient sandstones, and by crystalline rocks, it afterwards flows through lakes whose basins are composed of palæozoic strata, which abound in limestones rich in gypsum and salt, and these rocks have given the waters of this river that predominance of soda, chlorine, and sulphuric acid which distinguishes it from the Ottawa. It is an interesting geographical feature of these two rivers, that they each pass through a series of great lakes, in which the waters are enabled to deposit their suspended impurities, and thus are rendered remarkably clear and transparent.”

The two rivers thus not mixing at once, is owing, we presume, to the specific gravity of the one being much heavier than that of the other. The two are distinctly seen flowing down together, by the difference in their color.

The lake you are now upon—if a fine morning, and in summer—will be as calm as a mill-pond, and, with its wooded islands, and nicely-wooded country round about, forms a scene of the finest character. Each turn the steamer takes, it opens up with its new beauties. Sometimes, however, the lake, now so placid and beautiful to look upon, is raised like a raging sea, rendering its navigation not so easy, as many a poor raftsmen has found to his cost, whilst navigating his treasure of lumber to Quebec or Lachine. You may, possibly, see some of these rafts of lumber as you pass along. Nowhere in the whole of America, we believe, will you see such magnificent and valuable rafts of lumber as on the Ottawa. The rafts on the Delaware, Ohio, and Mississippi, which we have seen, are nothing to com-