

The Levier, Trou and Deux Rivières Rapids are all within a short distance of one another but by means of tracking and portaging were safely passed. Tracking in this case means lowering the canoe down along the edge of the rapid by means of a rope

The Trou Rapids, so named because here part of the river rushes with tremendous velocity through a narrow cleft in the rock resembling a trough, gives a splendid idea of the gigantic power of water. You have doubtless seen the Chelsea Rapids at flood tide on the Gatineau. The Deux Rivières Rapids at low water bear a striking resemblance to these. I asked a river driver if they ever ran them in their big buns, "No" he replied "not unless they get into them and can't help it."

At the head and foot of all the Ottawa rapids the waters are perfectly alive with fish—a species of whitefish, I believe. Up there they call them shiners. They rise at flies in all directions but cannot be caught by bait or spoon. You see a faint ripple on the water, a fin and tail appear for an instant and disappear without the slightest noise or splash. They make one think of sharks with their smooth, noiseless movements. A few yards of fine netting and the larder could be stocked in a few minutes.

Between the Deux Rivières Rapids and the Roche Capitaine the most gloriously coloured scenery was passed through—seen in a painting it would be called extravagant, ridiculous, absurd.

It was marvellous. All around was one panorama of red of every conceivable shade, from deep maroon to delicate salmon—yellow, from deep orange to pale chrome, and green from dark myrtle to bright emerald. It was like being in fairy land, and each turn of the river brought it before us more vividly.

The Roche Capitaine is the ugliest rapid between Mattawa and Ottawa and took an entire day to traverse. To quote from Sir William Logan's report: "The river with a strong current above presents in middle distance and lower down, a fierce, violent and crooked rapid which obstructing ledges at the elbow split into several narrow channels, driving the main body round a great cauldron-shaped space where the rocks on the right are swept clean of nearly all loose material." At the elbow spoken of by Sir Wm. Logan is a great rock called the Captain's Rock. Lower down these rapids are known as the Maribou Rapids. There are eight dips in all and the distance covered between three and four miles.

As we advanced the scenery became still more worthy of rapture, and we were fairly struck dumb with admiration and wonder that anything could be so lovely. I cannot begin to describe it. Every bend of the river seemed more beautiful and the colour brighter and more varied than the last, and the view behind still more worthy of ecstasy than the one in front.

Three miles beyond the Village of Rockcliff the Rivière du Moins joins the Ottawa from the north. The entrance looked very grand. On the right hand side is an immense hill, four or five hundred feet high.