

# CANADA:

A Monthly Magazine for Canadians at Home and Abroad.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people."

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Address: MATTHEW R. KNIGHT,  
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[FOR CANADA.]

MAY 24th, 1891.

BA ERIE.

A grassy knoll beside a rushing stream,  
Lark swaying pines, a graceful silver birch,  
Bright maples wakened from their winter's  
dream,

A sturdy oak through which the sunbeams  
search

For hidden violets, or cast a gleam  
Upon some song bird on his leafy perch.

An old white mill within the river's bend,  
An inlet where the tired waters rest,  
While languid clouds their aimless journey  
wend

Across a mimic sky within its breast,  
Unruffled save where fishers' lines descend  
Into the depths on oftentimes futile quest.

The glories of the autumn woods we tread  
Neath careless feet; in thoughtless hands we  
hold

A last year's acorn cup, the spirit fled;

Beside the dandelion's disc of gold  
The stricken needles of the pine lie dead—  
Life's mystery in death—can none unfold?

How quiet here, yet sound is everywhere:  
The rapids' ceaseless roar is in our ear;  
The chant of spirits of the upper air  
Now trembles low, now rises sweet and clear.  
Were ear and heart attuned, what strains more  
rare  
From distant heavenly voices might we hear.

And yet the spell lies not in flowret's hue,  
Nor in the fragrance of the balmy wind;  
It is not in the far-off dreamy blue  
With visions of eternity behind;  
There is a subtler spell;—a charm more true  
Deep hidden lies. — Yet he who seeks may find.

If he search for the thought—light's flitting  
gleam  
Flashing out from the eyes of some loved  
friend,

While the myriad voices of wood and stream,  
To the music of speech their harmony lend;  
When souls hold communion as in a dream,  
And spirits untrammelled their essence blend.  
*Montreal.*

[A CHRISTMAS SKETCH.]

## THE HISTORY AND LEGENDS OF THE KING'S FORGES, NEAR THREE-RIVERS, P. Q.

BY J. M. LAMOINE, F. R. S. C.

To fully take in the history of this famous iron industry, as well as the several legends connected with it, one must bear in mind that prospecting for mines in Canada, dates far back. As early as 1666, King Louis XIV's great minister Colbert had charged one M. de la Tesserie, to explore for mineral wealth the shores of the lower St. Lawrence. The result was the discovery of the iron ore of *Baie St. Paul*; this ore, however, was never a success to the miner. Intendant Talon, the same year, had been advised of the rich mining deposits—nine miles in rear of the town of Three-Rivers—known later on, as the St. Maurice Forges.

Hard cash was necessary to utilise for Canadian markets these sources of unrevealed wealth; the French monarch sent it, but accompanied by the wrong man,—one M. de la Potardiere who reported unfavorably on the find.\*

\*Notwithstanding the unfavourable report Count Frontenac continued to think these mines important, in 1672. In 1681, the Marquis de Denonville, wrote encouragingly to France about the iron ore.

In 1676, the Seignior of Saint Maurice was conceded to Dame Jeanne Jalope, wife of Maurice Poulin—the King's Attorney General at Three-Rivers; who gave his name to the river with the three outlets—now known as the St. Maurice. Widow Poulin, bequeathed her seigniorial estate to her son Michel, on the 19th January, 1683. The right to extract the ore was granted by the Crown in 1730 to M. De Francheville, who formed a company for that purpose in 1736, composed of M. de Francheville, Poulin, Gamelin and Cugnet.

When Peter Kalm, the celebrated Swedish naturalist, visited the Forges, in 1749, he found they were worked on the same system as was in use in Sweden. This can be accounted for from the fact that minister Colbert, had in 1674, sent to Sweden, persons to learn the Swedish process of smelting and molding, whilst the artisans sent out to Canada by the French Government from Burgundy and Franche-Comte, held on to the traditions handed down by Colbert's men seventy-five years before. The clever French Inspector of Fortifications, Franquet, had also, at the invitation of Intendant Bigot, visited and reported on the Forges with a view of improving the mode of administering them in an economical way.

The Saint Maurice Forges, under French rule, were considered so important that special stipulations about them were inserted in the articles of capitulation, agreed to, at Montreal, on the 8th Sept., 1760, between General Amherst and Governor de Vaudreuil.

These great iron works played also a part, though a disloyal one—later on, when Canada was invaded by the New England continentals, in 1775; Christophe Pelissier, the manager, sent out from his furnaces, cannon balls and bomb shells, to Brigadier General Montgomery for the blockade of Quebec. When he heard of the victorious approach of Governor Guy Carleton, he left hurriedly for Sorel, and thence, for the frontier; when he applied to Congress for compensation, and payment of the ammunition and supplies he had furnished the invading host. It seems fortunate, he did make himself scarce, as traitors were summarily dealt with in those critical days.