

up around the lumber mills at the mouth of the two rivers. The older and larger of these villages is at the mouth of the Little Tracadie. This is because the Little Tracadie is connected with the principal Gully by a channel navigable for boats, while the Big Tracadie is not; and this has made the Little Tracadie the natural, even though but an indifferent, port for the district. But in recent years the building of the railroad to Caraquet and Bathurst has made Tracadie largely independent of water communication, so that now the new village at the mouth of the Big Tracadie is growing much faster than the older Tracadie Village. Tracadie is thus a farming and lumbering community; its fisheries are of subordinate and only local importance.

But in thus describing the Tracadie of to-day, I must not omit a related matter of great interest. Science tells us that our world is forever in change, that lands rise from the sea and sink beneath it, that hills lift up their heads where meadows once lay open, that rivers change their courses, waxing small as well as great. Tracadie, too, has experienced great changes. It has been under the sea, as the pebbles, shells and sea-shore sand now found inland at several places bear witness, and it is now slowly sinking into it again. Furthermore there is every evidence that it once stood far above its present position, and then the sea-coast was far out to the eastward, and the present Tracadie Rivers did not exist. Instead, two other and far greater rivers flowed through Tracadie to the sea. One of these had its source far inland in the valley of the present Little Southwest Miramichi and flowed across country by a valley still occupied by the Little Sevogle, by parts of the Bartibog and Tabusintac, by Portage River, and part of Tracadie Bay, while it emptied far out in the Gulf. Another ancient river arose in the Sevogle, and flowed by a valley now occupied by parts