

the sullen Saguenay makes its way through the mountains. Standing in a well-chosen position is the "St. Lawrence Hall" in which five hundred people can eat, drink and be merry during their stay. Scattered along the shore are private residences, for summer use, while numerous other houses are filled with summer boarders. The village is two miles from the railway station, and is also a place of call for the St. Lawrence steamers. Cacouna was one of the places visited by Prince Arthur, and was also visited by Lord Dufferin while Governor-General.

For those who wish to spend a summer at the sea-side, and yet enjoy the pleasures of society, Cacouna offers great attractions. Its hotel accommodation is excellent, the bathing, boating, etc., are all that can be desired, and all the conveniences of life are to be enjoyed. The sportsman will find good fishing and hunting; the lovers of excitement can find fascination in the horse-races; while the devoutly inclined will find not only the usual parish church, but, what is somewhat rare in this country, two Protestant churches as well. Cacouna is, in all respects, a well equipped watering-place.

LES HABITANTS DE LA NOUVELLE-FRANCE.

The railway and telegraph of the nineteenth century run through a country in which hundreds of people are to all intents and purposes in the seventeenth century. Not to their disrespect be this said, but as showing the tenacity with which they adhere to their language, manners and customs. The Canadian *habitants* are probably as conservative as any people on earth. Where innovations are thrust upon them by the march of progress they adapt themselves to the changes; but where they are left to themselves they are happy in the enjoyment of the life their fathers led, and are vexed by no restless ambition to be other than they have been. Their wants are simple and easily supplied; they live peaceful and moral lives; and they are filled with an abiding love for their language and a profound veneration for their religion. By nature light-hearted and vivacious, they are Optimists without knowing it. Inured to the climate, they find enjoyment in its most rigorous seasons. French in all their thoughts, words and deeds, they are yet loyal to the British crown, and contented under British rule. Their ancient laws are secured to them by solemn compact; and their language and religion are landmarks which will never be moved. In places where the English have established themselves, some of the *habitants* understand

the English language, but none of them adopt it as their own. The mingling of races has a contrary effect, and the English tongue must yield to the French. There are many Englishmen in Quebec whose children do not understand a word of their father's native tongue; but there are no Frenchmen whose children are ignorant of the language of France.

A traveller is very favorably impressed by the manners of the country people. Many of them are in very humble circumstances; books are to them a sealed mystery; and their circumstances of life are not such as are supposed to conduce to refinement of manners. Yet everywhere the stranger meets with courtesy, and finds the evidence of true politeness—not mere ceremonial politeness, but that which is dictated by sincerity and aims at the accomplishment of a stranger's wishes as a matter of duty. Where one does not understand the language they will take great trouble to comprehend his meaning; where he can speak even indifferent French, he can make himself perfectly at home.

The railway runs through the land of the French Canadian, until after the Metepediac is reached. Everywhere is seen the familiar church; no hamlet is too poor to have a good one. Should you seek the curé, you will find him a man whom it is a pleasure to meet—well informed, affable and full of the praises of the land in which he lives. The *habitants* have a sincere regard for their spiritual advisers, who are truly pastors to their people, and whose lives are devoted to the well-being of their flocks. They follow in the steps of the pioneer missionaries, whose heroic devotion in the past must forever be honored by men of every creed.

Leaving Cacouna, the next place of interest reached is Trois Pistoles, and it has a charm for the traveller at whatever hour of the day or night he may arrive. This consists in the Railway Dining-Room, which is a model of neatness and has a table fit to charm the most fastidious taste. One does not require to be very hungry to enjoy the viands of this place, which, under the present management, need not fear comparison with any in the country. Trois Pistoles village is prettily situated, and there is good lake and river fishing in the vicinity. Lake St. Simon, a beautiful sheet of water, deserves particular mention. The name of the village is derived either from three pistoles being originally given for a piece of land in the vicinity, or from a man losing that sum, or from a trade with the Indians in which that sum changed hands. The antiquarian can choose whichever of the three traditions seems most reasonable.