

THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.



N the 10th of January, 1792, a patent was issued to Alexander Macomb covering large tracts of land bordering on the St. Lawrence. It was intended that the application should also secure control of the Islands in that part of the St. Lawrence on which this tract fronted. But there is no proof that the Islands were actually patented until after the determination of the boundary line (1822). On February 15th, 1823, a patent was issued to Elisha Camp, including all the Islands in the State, between the head of Grindstone Island and Morristown. The Islands included in this patent were subsequently divided up and sold either separately or in parcels, passing through the hands of successive owners down to about 1845. At this time Mr. Azariah Walton became the possessor of a considerable portion of Wells Island, together with most of the small islands between the head of Wells Island and Morristown. At least as early as this the Thousand Islands began to gain a name, not only among lovers of the beautiful in nature, but especially among sports-men, as a place for Summer recreation on the part of lovers of the rod and gun. About 1850, Mr. Seth Greene, the fish culturist, bought the island now known as "Manhattan," and built a cottage upon it. As early as 1846 the Rev. George W. Bethune, afterwards of Brooklyn, began spending his Summers at Alexandria Bay, and the figure of the sportsman parson is a prominent one in all that pertains to the welfare of this region, and in bringing its rare beauties and pleasures to the knowledge of the public.

Shortly after 1850 Messrs. Cornwall and Walton, who had become owners of a large number of islands in the American waters, began selling the small islands at a nominal price. They indulged the hope that the place might develop into one of the great Summer resorts, and the islands were sold with the stipulation that cottages should be erected within three years from the time of sale. The sales were not numerous, however, and the cottages erected were of a rude sort. In 1872 an incident occurred which more than anything else in recent times called