

FIRST BUSINESS FIRM IN ST. JOHN.

Rev. Dr. Raymond's Interesting Sketch of the Start of Operations by Hazen & Simonds—How Trade With the Indians Was Carried On—The Depredations of A. Green Crabtree.

W. O. RAYMOND, LL. D., CHAPMAN XVII.

AT PORTLAND POINT—(Continued 3).

William Hazen and James Simonds were undoubtedly the prime movers in the formation of this company that began its operations at St. John in 1764. By their joint efforts they were able to organize a firm seemingly happily constituted and likely to work together harmoniously and successfully.

The company having been formed and the contract signed on the 1st day of March, 1764, the Messrs. Simonds, James White, Jonathan Leavitt and a party of about thirty hands embarked on board a schooner belonging to the Company for the scene of operations.

The writer of this history has among his historic documents and papers a number of account books in a very fair state of preservation, containing in part transactions of the company during the years they were in business at St. John.

While accounts were kept according to the currency of New England, the amount of cash handled by Simonds and White was insignificant. For years they supplied the settlers on the river with such things as they required often receiving their payment in furs and skins.

The fur trade assumed large proportions at this period. The account books of Simonds and White that are now in existence do not contain a complete record of all the shipments made from St. John, but they show that during ten years of uninterrupted trade from the time their settlement at Portland Point to the outbreak of the Revolution, they exported at least 40,000 beaver skins, 11,222 muskash, 6,000 Marten, 870 otter, 238 Sable, 222 Mink, 120 fox, 140 marten, 67 leopard, 67 wolverine, 5 bear, 2 Nova Scotia wolf, 50 caribou, 83 deer, and 1,113 moose, besides 2,263 lbs. of castor and 3,000 lbs. of feathers.

James White was the principal agent in bartering with the Indians who had every confidence in his integrity. Three-fourths of their trade was in beaver skins and "a pound of spring beaver" (equivalent to 5 shillings in value) was the unit employed in trade.

The goods kept in the store at Portland Point for the Indian trade included powder and shot for hunting, provisions, blankets and other "necessaries" and such articles as Indian needles, colored thread, beads of various colors, a variety of buttons—brass buttons, silver plated buttons, double-gilt buttons, scarlet buttons and blue molton buttons—scarlet red and red cloth, crimson broadcloth, red and blue striped, silver and gold laced hats, gilt trunks, Highland garters, silver crosses, round silver brooches, etc.

The old account books bear evidence of being well thumbed, for Indian debts were hard to collect and white men's debts were harder to collect in ancient than in modern days.

John Allen, of Machias, had a conference with the Indians at Annapolis in June, 1777, and writes in his journal: "The Chiefs made a grand appearance, particularly Ambrose St. Aubin, who was dressed in a blue velvet waistcoat four inches deep, and a white cravat, also wore with him a cockade."

AS A REVENTIVE Parson's Pills COUGHS, COLDS, ROUP Johnson's LINIMENT

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ROUND THE TOWN.

Bright little bits which illustrate the many sides of human life in St. John.

There is a Scotchman somewhere in this town who needs a guide and should never be allowed out without one. If he keeps on taking chances he will some day appear as the repeated chief figure at an elaborate inquest.

Perched on a friendly gate post the counsellor awaits his pupil's triumph(?) and with praiseworthy consideration and regard for the tender youth whose education he has so nobly undertaken he indicates, to draw a veil over the last act of this wretched tragedy to which he was the sole witness.

Who is it?

"Who is it?" she inquired, suspiciously, from the top of the stairway. "Do you mean Mr. D.—live here?" asked a voice from the space between the inner and outer doors.

What are you doing there?

"What are you doing there?" the woman demanded sharply. "The fact is," said the voice with the burr, "I've got my key fast in the door and can't get it out. I thought this was the house where I lodge. I went out for a walk and got completely turned around."

For aught that I could read.

"For aught that I could read," the woman declared, "I never saw you before. The old adage still holds good as has been proved to Chatterer's week by an occurrence of vital interest to at least one of our community—and of more than ordinary interest to the humor-loving public."

Montezuma Has Big Cargo for Here.

Halifax, N. S., April 5.—(Special)—C. P. R. steamer Montezuma, Capt. W. Jones, arrived here yesterday from London via Antwerp after 14 days passage. The steamer has 500 tons of cargo to land here and is expected to arrive at St. John on the 10th inst.

Charlotte Harbor Blocked with Ice.

Piton, N. S., April 4.—(Special)—The steamer Monte made an unsuccessful attempt to reach Charlotte harbor yesterday. She got within three miles of Block House last night, but found the harbor ice so thick and strong that it was impossible to proceed further.

Stanley Church Officers.

Stanley, York Co., April 6.—Stanley church, Rev. B. Murray, pastor, Easter Monday elections resulted as follows:—Wardens—Howard Douglas and Dr. A. Sterling; Vestrymen—Eric H. Clarkson, Eldon W. Douglas, Robt. Waugh, Edward S. Thomas, A. L. Douglas, J. A. Humble, Jas. G. Douglas, Wm. Scott, Stanley Douglas, Julia Wood, Robt. Logan, and Wm. Beaudry; Vestry clerk—Jerry Douglas; Delegate to synod—Dr. Waldner and Eric H. Clarkson; Substitutes—J. A. Humble and Stanley Douglas.

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