

sixty miles to and from L'Amable with a two-horse "rig" containing tent, food, cooking utensils and spades. Numerous enquiries enabled us to find our way to the shores of an extensive lake locally known as "Westmacoon," but which we afterwards learned is spelled in a variety of ways, as Mr. Chamberlain in his paper points out. This lake lies partly in the townships of Effingham to the south and Ashby to the north, both in the county of Addington. Careful search on the part of four men enabled us to find, eventually, the place we wanted. It occupied a position on a plateau considerably above the level of the lake and not far from its margin. Much of the surface was marked by broken bones, but in such fragmentary condition that it was impossible to say whether they were those of human beings or of other animals. A few places within this area were suggestive of ossuaries, but digging gave no encouragement. It is just possible that, after all, our information was not sufficiently accurate to enable us to hit the spot we wanted; but, on the other hand, it is quite probable that "only this and nothing more" had given rise to the talk of the neighbourhood. Mr. Alexander Robertson, of Madoc, who joined us on our way, cannot be too heartily thanked for the many kind services he rendered throughout what may be termed "The Weslemkoon Expedition." His gift of specimens to the museum is elsewhere recorded.

At the close of our fourth day out we reached Bancroft, and from information furnished by Dr. Beeman we resolved to visit an island in Lake Baptiste, where about twenty Indians reside in a sort of semi-savage state, and where, we ascertained, there were traces of pre-historic occupation. A short voyage in a birch-bark canoe brought us to a small Indian settlement, the chief man being Francois Antoine, or Ag-wah-setch. While Mr. Chamberlain engaged Ag-wah-setch in matters philological, Jean Baptiste, the elder son, paddled Dr. Beeman and myself to the western end of the lake, where, at a spot known as Grassy Point, relics of various kinds had been picked up. One of our highly valued copper specimens, presented by Mr. Alex. Robertson, was found at this place.

Grassy Point has undoubtedly been either a permanent residence, or a place where frequent visits were paid by the Indians of by-gone days, judging from the number of traces left. Want of time, however prevented us from making anything beyond an exceedingly superficial examination of the ground.

Young Antoine having volunteered the information that he knew of a cave where his grandfather had often told him their ancestors used to conceal weapons of all kinds, our canoe was headed for the spot, on the south side of the lake, about two miles distant. The cave in question proved to be at least one hundred and twenty feet almost precipitously above the lake, and formed a recess about ten feet wide at the mouth, and extending not far short of twenty feet back, narrowing rapidly. Dr. Beeman, on the way up, thinking he heard a noise of some kind, paused, and asked Baptiste Antoine whether he too had heard any sound. The Indian's reply was "Wendigo, Wendigo!" indicating that, despite profession of Christianity, a little of the pagan clings to these people's habits of thought—possibly, however, they attach no more meaning to such an expression than some of ourselves do when we suggest ghosts or witches as probable causes of mischief.

Ag-wah-setch and another old Indian are experts in the making of birch-bark canoes, and, as we had an opportunity of seeing one "on the stocks," the following description of the steps taken in the manufacture of these marvellously light but strong vessels may prove not uninteresting; especially when we take into consideration that the day is not far distant when, like the arts of pottery and flint-flaking, the art of canoe-building will be quite forgotten.