

namely Mr. Fraser, who became the pastor of a church in Glengarry, and was a man abundant in labors, and singularly blessed.

Early in the summer of 1830, country and kindred were bade farewell—the Atlantic crossed, and Mr. Edwards reached his forest home, and the scene of his useful labours.

Material as well as moral progress was becoming apparent in Clarence and along the Ottawa. One luxury had been enjoyed for several years, in a steam-boat passing daily along the river. In 1824 the "Union," built at Hawkesbury, first rippled the smooth sheet of water between Grenville and Hull. She was a slow coach, requiring all day to make the passage one way, but was very accommodating. She stopped for every canoe that brought her freight or passengers. On one occasion a party, presuming on this good nature, detained her in mid-stream to hand on board a letter, with a request to the captain to mail it at Hawkesbury. The captain complied, but rebuked such freedom by using an adjective that showed his dislike of being imposed upon so far.

Occasionally the method of boarding the steamer was attended with danger. Mr. Edwards had his share of escapes on bad ice, and by canoes capsizing; but all were put into the shade by his almost miraculous preservation when boarding the steamer one day.

The boat was about stopping, but the wheels were slowly revolving, when the person steering the canoe very awkwardly allowed it to pass before the wheel. In a moment the occupants of the canoe were struggling in the water. Mr. Edwards grasped one of the blades of the wheel, to which he clung while it made two revolutions, his body passing through a space so narrow that every one wondered how he escaped with life.

In 1827 Col. By passed up to commence the Rideau Canal. This costly work made no small stir on the hitherto quiet Ottawa. The embryo town, bearing the Colonel's name, grew apace. The construction and trade of the canal, the fast settling of the surrounding country, and the increasing extent of the lumber trade, united to push

Bytown rapidly forward. An interesting incident connected with the first flight of locks ascending from the Ottawa, is the fact that the renowned Sir John Franklin laid the foundation stone. Sir John, happening to pass on one of his overland trips northward, was assigned the honor. Lady Franklin, when in Ottawa, in 1861, was shown the stone her lamented husband had laid so long before.

During the progress of the canal, the demand for farm produce was great, and prices ranged high. The settlers along the river felt the benefit. Clarence improved rapidly; settlers came in fast; and those previously located improved in circumstances. The blessing of a day school was added to the Sabbath school. A church, receiving frequent additions, watched over by Mr. Edwards, was exerting a beneficial influence on the whole community.

The necessity for manual labor, on the part of Mr. Edwards, being lessened, he devoted his time more fully to ministerial work. Not having been hitherto formally designated to the charge of a church, he was, in 1831, ordained. About that time an Act was passed in Upper Canada, to enable other than Episcopal and Presbyterian ministers to marry. Mr. Edwards took advantage of the law, and supplied a want long felt. Previously, candidates for wedlock had to make long journeys, or content themselves with the services of a magistrate.

Many amusing anecdotes might be told of the doings of some J.P.s, in early days, in the back woods, both in their style of tying matrimonial knots, and administering justice. Nice points of law were not studied; in fact some of their worships were a law unto themselves. One of these, an old officer, who had served under Wellington and loved dispatch, would put up a notice on a Saturday, stating "This is the first, second and third time of calling," and marry the couple on the following Monday. Any case in the whole calendar civil or criminal, he would take hold of—breaches of promise, or cases of debt, just as readily as breaches of the peace.

Our next chapter will further record triumphs and progress along the Ottawa.