

and visited the scattered forest settlers, who had built their solitary cabins on the river bank.

It was to me, in some measure, a recapitulation of all I had seen on Lake Superior. Once we put in to "allumer" at a Frenchman's,* and amused ourselves for a quarter of an hour with his cleanly household and his sonorous French conversation. Another time we came to a jolly Irishman, who had cleared a small potato patch in the forest, and lived there alone with his spade and his axe, without family, friends, or neighbours, defying fate and the blue devils, and had nothing living to console him save a cat, which followed him everywhere. On a third occasion we "took a handful of fire" at the hut of a half-breed, the bonhomme La Battu. This gentleman was an industrious bark-canoe builder. He had a number of them always on the stocks, and carried on a lively trade with the foresters, who nearly always prefer a canoe to using their feet, for in this watery, swampy, inaccessible land the latter can scarce be used to pay a neighbour a visit, much less to travel. He was married to an Indian woman of the "Crees" tribe, a most respectable-looking housewife, who told us many curious things about her northern home and people. Unfortunately, though, we could stay nowhere long enough to examine the peculiar circumstances under which men live here. For, after a short stay, the shout would be heard, "Au large! au large!" and we were forced to hurry on to reach our night's resting-place betimes. This occurred when darkness already brooded over the face of the waters, and the roar of the cataracts convinced us that we had really arrived

* The word "allumer" in the Canadian language means, "to call at a person's house while travelling."