

Jan: Mac Donald Teacher

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LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face.
That th' earth thy way, and nations all may know thy saving grace.—Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2.

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Home Missions. SHEET HARBOUR.

MR. EDITOR,—

At your request I beg to subjoin a *descriptive and historical sketch of SHEET HARBOUR and vicinity.*

Sheet Harbour is one of those beautiful and capacious havens for which Nova Scotia is so distinguished. To give an idea of its size, it extends about 8 miles inland, with an average breadth of about a mile. It is situated between 50 and 60 miles to the Eastward of Halifax; and is navigable for vessels of any tonnage up to its very head. It receives the waters of three Rivers—the East River, the North West River, and the West River. The first of these rises somewhere near St Mary's, and, after crossing the New Guysborough Road, empties itself into the Harbour about a mile and a half from its head, after a tumultuous course of upwards of 30 miles. This beautiful stream is settled only for about 7 miles. But the last homestead of any eminence is the residence of Alexander Fraser, Esq. The Alpine position of this pleasantly situated habitation attracts the notice of the traveller from afar. Four miles farther up is the settlement of Lochaber, comprising 5 families. Few sights in nature can rival the scenery that adorns each bank of this river for the first two miles. To describe these beauties would require a more experienced pen than mine. I can only record the *impression* produced on my own mind during a stroll along its margin on

a beautiful evening in the autumn of 1854.

The North West River has its rise somewhere near the settlement of Musquodoboit. About 3 miles from its mouth it expands itself so as to constitute a chain of Lakes extending for a distance of 3 miles—beautified on the one side by the hand of industry and the abodes of men—adorned on the other by an abrupt and elevated range of woody hills. This chain of Lakes terminates at a distance of some 150 yards from the head of the Harbour. Across this narrow and rocky declivity, “the waters of the river,” when swollen by melting vernal snows, or autumnal rains, rush with the most stupendous violence and rapidity, and with a noise that can be heard miles off.

The West River is a streamlet of very humble pretensions.

Sheet Harbour was first settled about 70 years ago by companies of the 33rd and 42nd Regiments. These received grants of land from Government as a reward for military services. At the time of their arrival there were two families residing in the place—one of the name of Lydiard—the name of the other I have forgotten. At this time Mr Lydiard had a Sawmill—the first ever erected in the place. A few years later this infant community received valuable accessions by the arrival of the Lowes, Frasers and Curries, and others from Scotland, and the Halls from England (the latter about the year 1798). A considerable proportion of these emi-