

fold of a dark cloud becoming visible, and at the same moment a hollow roar came down upon the winds, as if it were the sound of waves in a rocky cavern. To escape the gale was impossible, and our canoe was soon fairly deluged with water. But as the song says :

"Never sit down with a tear or a frown,
But paddle your own canoe."

Having surmounted the rapids at the head of Tortue Lake, we pursued our way across Trout Lake, which is nine miles long and three or four miles wide. It is a beautiful lake, with many curves and indentations. Some of these indentations form very pretty bays with narrow gate-like entrance, which affords splendid breeding grounds for the wild duck. The coasts are hilly, and between the hills we could see huge gorges, and whichever way the eye turns there is a picture which fairly enchants. At the head of the lake we found the water very shallow for a considerable distance, and we had to wade in the water to get our canoe ashore. We then pursued our way through a narrow creek, until we came to a sheet of water which rejoices in the fiery name of Brandy Lake. Its waters are the colour of Brandy. At the head of this lake we came to a portage which forms the height-of-land on the water-shed—the water on the one side falling into Brandy Lake and on the other into the Vaase. This portage which is only three-fourths of a mile across, is the only obstacle in the way of the whole Province of Ontario and a portion of the Province of Quebec being formed into an island. I have no doubt but that when lumbering operations are carried on in the neighbourhood of Lake Nipissing, the interesting feat will be performed. Beyond this portage we came to a muddy creek, abounding with water-lilies, and where the mosquitoes seem to have absolute control. Any *voyageur* who enters this creek will not tarry long to admire the lilies. At the end of this creek we came to a portage one and a quarter mile long. We had to pursue our path as best we could over fallen logs, tangled underbrush, and tall grass, which grew so luxuriantly that we could not see each other as we waded our way through. At the head of this portage we entered the River Vaase, a beautiful placid stream. It winds and twists within the narrowest limits. A long fringe of bush skirts its banks on both sides with scarce a break. Having paddled down this stream for a considerable distance, and whilst we were still under the shadow of the bush, a bend in the river brought to our view the great Nipissing in all its wild magnificence. We felt something like Cortez on a peak in Darien.

Lake Nipissing is ninety-six miles long and thirty-six miles wide, and is covered with quite a number of islands. We find that in the year 1615 Champlain pursued his explorations as far as this lake, and that he stayed two days with the Nipissings. It appears from the account given by Champlain of those Indians, that they enjoyed an unenviable sort of repute amongst the neighbouring tribes for witch-craft and magic. Champlain crossed the lake and passed through French River down to the Georgian Bay.

From the mouth of the Vaase we had to canoe for quite a distance along the margin of the lake, in order to get to the house of a solitary settler of the name of Smith. We stayed here over night. Early the next morning we were again in our canoe, and had to paddle some fifteen or twenty miles across Lake Nipissing to get to the mouth of South River. It was a beautiful tranquil morning, without a breath to disturb the surface of the lake. But after we had been out for some time the wind freshened, and we began to experience what Lake Nipissing could do when lashed to fury. We had been repeatedly warned to beware of being caught on the lake in a breeze, for the least breath of wind seems to rouse it to fury. Our light canoe was tossed up and down on the bosom of its waves like a cork, the waves every now and again making a complete wash of our frail bark. We soon found it necessary to alter our course and seek shelter under the lee of one of its many islands. The boiling tides, the green and white billows, the pillars of foam which are thrown aloft when the waves dash on the rocky coasts of its many islands, form a scene of wild grandeur which must be seen to be fully appreciated. We camped for dinner at one of its islands. From this point on the lake we could see the dark, ragged rampikes on distant islands standing around like ghosts, as if charged with some wearily ancient secrets of which they cannot disburthen themselves.

At noon we reached South River. We paddled up this stream at our leisure, enjoying the beauty of its scenery. The land appears to be of a good quality on both sides. At last we reached the South River Settlement, where we were most hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Beaty. On the following day I visited the school, and found not only the pupils but also their parents—in fact the whole settlement had turned out. A good many of the pupils speak French and Indian, and in these respects the teacher encounters the same difficulties as the teacher at the Mattawa. The school had been in operation about one year, and is under the charge of Mr.

Edward Grier. There are twenty-five children of school age in the section, and these presented a very neat and clean appearance. They passed a very satisfactory examination in reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. Having got through with the pupils, I next addressed my remarks to the parents, representing the claims of education, and encouraging them to take a lively interest in everything calculated to promote the welfare of their children.

This settlement promises in a few years to become a place of considerable importance. The land for many miles around South River is of a good quality, and presents a very enticing field for the immigrant. Some of the fields of grain presented a very fine appearance, one field of oats through which we travelled fairly brushing our faces. Mr. Shaw has built a saw mill some distance up the river, and I visited a very fine saw-mill recently erected by Mr. Beaty. Yet notwithstanding these advantages, the settlers have to put up with a great many inconveniences on account of their isolated position. The Ontario Government is about completing the colonization road from the Maganetewan to South River, thus affording the settlers an additional means of communication. The forest around Lakes Nipissing, Trout and Tortue are almost in their primeval state. This being the extreme limit of my journey, and having to return by the way I came, I must now bring my narrative to a close by paying a just tribute to Joe, our Indian guide. He beguiled the way by imparting all the knowledge in his possession, and with many a tradition of Indian story learnt by the watch-fires of the camp. We found him for many a day a faithful and kindly guide; and no one who seeks the scenes of the Upper Ottawa, or makes a voyage to the "great waters" need fear to place himself under his guidance.

Pembroke, September 15th, 1875.

FURTHER REPORT ON SCHOOLS IN OUTLYING TOWNSHIPS.

No. 2. *Hagerty*.—On the 15th September, I travelled as far as the Village of Eganville, where I stayed over night. On the following morning I took my own conveyance, and travelled by a very rough road as far as the Township of S. Algona. I was frequently compelled to make a detour into the bush in order to avoid dangerous and broken down corduroy bridges. I stayed over night at the house of a man of the name of Green. On the following day I took a boat and rowed some distance up a very beautiful lake, which has been very appropriately called Golden Lake. I then had to make my way for seven or eight miles through a brulé or burnt bush. I was accompanied by an enterprising fellow of the name of Ryan, who undertook to show me the way through to the School-house. Having crossed this brulé, our way was intercepted by a marshy creek. This we had to cross on a small float, or pieces of board thrown across each other. I here met the Trustees of No. 2 Hagerty. They informed me that the teacher was absent from her school that day, having received leave of absence in order to attend her sister's wedding. I went with the Trustees to the School-house, which I carefully examined, and gave all necessary information to the Trustees as to the complete equipment of the same. They have built a very commodious School-house, 30x24 and 10 feet high between floor and ceiling, and is provided with four large windows. The Trustees spoke in the highest terms of their teacher Miss Winters, who seems to have given entire satisfaction. There are about fifty children of school age in the Section and about fifteen of an average attendance. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the Section on account of location of School-house. The northern portion, composed almost entirely of German settlers, is anxious to have the School-house located much nearer to their settlement than it is, whilst the southern portion, composed almost exclusively of Irish settlers, is anxious to keep the School-house where it is. I quite agree with Judge Doran, who approved of the School-house being built where it is, as being in the most central part of the whole Section. I think in the course of a few years, if Trustees and parents remain faithful to the educational welfare of their children, that this will be flourishing Section.

No. 1. *Hagerty*.—In order to reach this School-house I had to travel by way of Brudenell Corners. I left my buggy at this place and pursued my way on horse-back. After having been out for some time the rain came down in torrents, which made it very disagreeable. My way lay for fifteen or twenty miles through a primeval forest, in which I was often at a loss as to which trail to follow. I managed however to make my way through. When I got to the clearance beyond this bush I had to cross a very dangerous corduroy bridge, some of the cross-logs of which were broken. My horse missed his footing and dropped down, and was only extricated after great exertions and the removal of part of the bridge. Having crossed this bridge, my way lay through a "brulé," where I was constantly impeded by the black trunks of fallen trees. When I got to the School-house I was greatly amused by the teacher remarking that my face was as black as a nigger's. This school is taught