

"off-day" upon the morrow—which was Sunday. Monday morning, so they calculated, they would paddle down to the settlement they were approaching and get the mail they expected, and make some purchases at the village.

This particular Sunday was a long sunny day, and a pleasant one with a Sunday sunset, and a satisfying pipe and talk after the evening meal.

And early Monday morning they folded their tents and embarked, the canoes shooting down the river as if instinct with the life of the tawny arms of the voyageurs.

They were fresh for work, and made good time. When they landed near the village the captain of the crew volunteered to attend to the business "down town," while a snack was being made ready on the bank.

And though there were placid-eyed, full-uddered cows, pasturing near, and corn and potatoes growing in stumpy fields at hand, the foraging disposition did not tempt these voyageurs from the paths of rectitude, though the commissary purse was empty. Perhaps the spirit of the yester Sabbath lingered with them.

The canoeist sauntered up the one street of the village. He remarked with some surprise the quietness of the place. But he had just come out of lonely haunts of wandering men and forest denizens, and it may be he expected too much of a village. He spied out the store with its wooden platform in front, and the brooms and Alaska-socks and axle-grease and wash-boards in the big window. And he approached this centre of rustic life expectantly, while he thought of something bright and jocular as a greeting.

But the door was locked. He looked around awhile; then, hoping the fellow would not leave his store locked for long, set out again. This time for the post-office which he saw to be in a cottage near by. He knew that a man can usually get mail at all hours in a country office.

It was certainly hard luck: the office was closed too, and mighty rapping availed nothing.

He went back to the store; its keeper had not returned. Rapping again failed completely to bring the negligent owner to