

## OUT OF THE GRAVE

If you glance at a map of the great Canadian Northwest, you will see before you a vast region intersected in every direction by rushing rivers and fantastic lakes. Down where it meets the United States you will notice a vast expanse of water called Lake of the Woods. It is one hundred miles long and fifty wide. Its shores are indented on all sides by deep bays and inlets, and its surface is dotted with thirteen thousand islands; few, if any, of them very large, some mere rocks, and others covered with gigantic pines and firs, where eagles even to-day build their nests undisturbed.

It will be remarked that the boundary line between the two countries, at that part of the map, cuts a very curious caper. Instead of continuing west, as it had been doing so far, it suddenly shoots north, and when approaching the centre of the lake veers west again, entering Northwest Inlet which it divides in two as far up as there is anything like comfortable navigation. The north side of the Inlet is Canadian, the south American. The American side, to its surprise, has suddenly grown into fame as marking one of the outposts in the pioneer development of the continent.

In the Canadian part of the lake, however, twenty-one miles from Northwest Inlet, though forever to be associated with it in thought, there is an island to which a deep religious interest attaches. It has a gruesome name and a history. It is called *Ile au Massacre*. Even the pagan Indians make the sign of the cross as they approach, and then paddle furiously to hurry by. They never land on the island, and never even point at it. Red men do not easily recoil from bloody memories, but a priest was murdered there in 1736, and crimes of that nature make even the unregenerate shudder. A cross now keeps guard over the once haunted island. Another rock in American waters once disputed the distinction of the massacre, but measurements, Indian traditions, and recent discoveries have settled the matter beyond dispute. Canada owns the horrible but sacred place.

The priest who was murdered there was Father Aulneau, a