

was sailing quietly about, preparatory to another rush. A few yards below, was a tumbling rapid, which he would certainly make for, and, where he would certainly have been lost; and where, had the canoe ventured to follow, it must have been a case of *sauf qui peut*. Larry leant over the bow, with left hand waving instructions to his nephew, who was paddling in the other end, and in the right grasping a gaff, six or seven feet long. This was the state of things for two or three minutes. At length the canoe, which had been moving slowly, halted: closer down to the water went Larry's head: slowly swung he round his armed hand, thrusting the gaff forwards and downwards until the butt reached no further than his elbow; then there was a short pause, during which we held our breath, till Larry rose erect and held out his gaff with a twenty-four pounder, as it turned out to be, struggling on the iron. The fish had been gaffed securely, and at least four feet below the surface of the water:—a prodigious feat, as the salmon-fisher will recognize. Larry has, however, done a greater thing than this; but we restrict our narrative to what we saw.

We left the Restigouche, on our way to meet the "Gulf Steamer" at Dalhousie, casting some "longing, lingering, looks behind," and feeling that a pleasant recollection is an imperishable good. Before the breaking up of our party, however—some of them were old and experienced hands—we made some enquiry into the past history of the salmon-fishings, both in the river proper, and in the tidal waters; of which, in conclusion, we offer a summary for the consideration of all to whom these presents may come.

Forty or forty-five years ago, when net-fishing had not well begun, and the spear was almost the only weapon used by the few white men and the Indians alike, the fish were more abundant in the river than now. It is about thirty-seven years since net-fishing may be said to have commenced. At that time the legal season for killing salmon extended from the beginning of May till the middle of August; and the Quebec Fisheries Act prescribed a weekly "open time" (during which no fish might be caught) of thirty-six hours. For New Brunswick there was no corresponding prescription. The two sides of the river were under different laws. The consequence was that that law was not much regarded; fish were captured in season and out of season with defiant assiduity. By the year 1858, *i. e.* in twenty-two years, this method of lawless