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GAMAGES
HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C., ENGLAND

People and Places

The Story of the Icelanders.

LATELY, there has been history on the Red River. A few days ago, a little party of Icelanders filed out of their church and marched to the big steamer *Winnitoba* for a short excursion. They were a reflective crowd, thinking of the old days. Thirty-five years ago the first men of Iceland reached Winnipeg. From there they pushed out in barges northward to the west shore of Lake Winnipeg. The trip was not very smooth. Sometimes the frail craft grounded; notably when the St. Andrews Rapids were reached. Four days they drifted. At last, the mouth of the river greeted them; then there was a pause till the Colville of the Hudson Bay Company fleet chugged into sight and hauled the lonely foreigners on board. On Sunday, October 20th, 1875, at a jut of land on the west coast known as Willow Point they disembarked from the Colville. Possibly this Sabbath Day was the most depressive that they ever spent in their lives. From the crowded thoroughfares of the East to the trails of the wilderness was rather an abrupt transition. Indians stalked out of the bush and welcomed them with mild wonder. The nights were hideous with the barking of prairie wolves.

That was thirty-five years ago. Willow Point is now Gimili of the Icelanders, one of the prosperous immigrant settlements of the Dominion. To-day there are at least ten thousand Icelanders in Canada—great many assimilated. Icelanders sit in the legislatures, publish newspapers; some of the young chaps have won Rhode Scholarships and played football. Such is the making of Canada.

* * * *

Art Treasures in Fredericton.

THAT very keen gentleman, J. Purves Carter, English artist, has sprung another sensation. Last autumn, it will be remembered, he rummaged through an old lumber room at Laval University, and told the academicians that their storehouse was the greatest art gallery in Canada, alleging that it contained, for instance, Ruben's Fruit Garland, also a Gainsborough, a Salvator Rosa, and a Poussin. While a great many people agreed with Mr. Carter, some thought that clever copies had bamboozled him. In fact, the Laval Collection is a mystery yet; no one has been able to quite decide as to the individual merits of the two million dollars' worth of art treasures in the quaint Quebec College. Mr. Purves Carter has given it up, though not his hobby of digging up rare pictures. He has migrated elsewhere, lately to New Brunswick. The other day he journeyed to Fredericton. In the Council Chamber of the Government Building, four courtly figures have for years looked down benignly from their gilt frames. Who they are every high-school boy can tell: King George of Tea Party fame, Queen Charlotte, Glenig, Scottish Earl, and His Excellency, the Earl of Sheffield. As to who painted these pictures, well, no one in Fredericton has been able to recollect.

Connoisseur Purves Carter has come out with his explanation. Arriving from Boston in St. John the other night, he said that the paintings of King George III. and Queen Charlotte were no less than the work of Sir Joshua Reynolds; that the Glenig one was done by Graham, famous Scotch artist, and that John Hoppner, R.A., was responsible for the portrait of the Earl of Sheffield.

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34

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