



ISLAND LAKE, ALGONQUIN PARK.

ALGONQUIN NATIONAL PARK.

BY THOS. W. GIBSON.

IF a premature posterity could rise up and enter into account with the present generation, and demand a reason for the burdens we are laying upon it, and the injury we are in many ways doing it, consciously or unconsciously, it is to be feared a sufficient answer would be wanting. "What has posterity done for us?" is a good enough phrase for the sarcastic politician, or the civic financier who issues half a million dollars worth of debentures, payable in forty years, to defray the cost of wooden sidewalks or block pavements, which will be resolved into their original elements long before the debt matures, but the principle is not one upon which a lover of his country or his race ought to base his actions. It would perhaps not be difficult to

point out some respects in which we, as citizens of the Province of Ontario, or the Dominion at large, are diligently engaged in sowing the wind, from which, in the natural course of events, those who are to come after us will reap the whirlwind.

But it is pleasant to be able to say, that the account with posterity has its credits as well as its debits. One important action the Province has recently taken for which coming generations will surely call us blessed. While it still lay within our power, we have set apart nearly a million acres of the public domain and dedicated it to the use and enjoyment not only of ourselves but of the future inhabitants of Ontario, when they shall be counted by the many millions. In the language