

barge floated down the stream, the quiet farm-steadings surrounded with every appearance of comfort and plenty, and the rich fields of grain that adorned the banks on either hand. The night was spent at *Sieur Gauthier's*.

Early on the following morning nearly all the settlers from both sides of the river were collected to represent their views and hear *Franquet's* decision respecting the site of the proposed church. With regard to expenses and other details perfect unanimity prevailed in the meeting, the only point in dispute was on which side of the river the church should be built. *Franquet*, having heard the arguments of either party, called to the notice of the meeting the fact, that were the church to be built on the southern bank of the river, only the inhabitants who lived on that bank could be reckoned upon to attend it, whereas were it built on the northern side the settlers around *Tracadie* which was only two leagues distant, would come there to Mass oftener than they would go to *St. Peters*. Besides, said he, *Sieur Bugeau* has generously offered a free gift of land on which to build the church, his orchard he offers for the site of a Presbytery, and his garden for a cemetery. *Franquet* added yet another consideration which in our days may be regarded as trivial, but which possessed weight among a people of simple tastes, and easily satisfied with natural enjoyment. At the foot of the slope, on the summit of which was the proffered site of the church, a spring of water called *Bel-air* spring, and renowned all over the district for its purity and freshness, gushed from the yellow sand in cool abundance. There, continued *Franquet*, those who come from a distance can rest and refresh themselves after their long journey. The cogency of these reasons healed all differences, and it was agreed to build the church on the site offered by *Sieur Bugeau*, and to call the new parish that of *St. Louis*. It was further stipulated that for the accommodation of those residing on the opposite side of the river coming to church, a ferry boat should be provided and maintained at the expense of the parishioners on both sides of the river. Finally, *Franquet* promised to use his influence with the Government to obtain from France a bell for the new church.

Although more than a century has passed since this meet-