THE WHITEROCKS OF TEMISCAMINGUE

A Strange Legend From the Romantic Canadian Northland

It is only during the last few years that Lake Temiscamingue has been known to more than a few lumbermen and the employees of Hudson Bay Company. Geographies spoke of it as a large lake from which the Ottawa River took its rise; a fallacy which has been exploded by exploration and the discovery that it is only an enlargement of the Ottawa River, the real sources of which lie two or three hundred miles beyond it.

two or three hundred miles beyond it.
One of the most remarkable features of
Lake Temiscamingue is a limestone cliff
known as the White Rocks, which juts
out into the lake, forming a bold promontory, out into the lake, forming a bold promontory, and presenting on the east side an abrurt precipice, but sloping off to the west in a gradual descent, until it reaches the waters of what is known as Wabikeesick's Bay, where it takes the name of Wabikeesick's Point. In former times it was a favorite camping ground of the Indians, being not easily accessible except by water, and commanding such a view of the lake that a surprise attack, unless under cover of dark. manding such a view of the lake that a surprise attack, unless under cover of darkness, would be almost an impossibility; a feature of great value to the timid Ojibeways, who in former times were much harassed by the fiercer and more warlike Iroquois, especially when those gentlemen were in search of fur, which they found far more search of fur, which they found far more easily and expeditiously procured by hunting the hunters than by hunting the animals themselves. These cliffs are not only remarkable as being apparently an isolated outcrop of Silurian limestone hemmed in on every side by the Huronian and Laurentian formations, but they have the peculiarity of being composed of thin layers of gritty limestone. ranging in thickness from one

of being composed of thin layers of gritty limestone, ranging in thickness from one to three inches and which have the appearance of uncooked cakes of meal or flour, a peculiarity which is accounted for among the Indians by the following legend.

In the dim and half forgotten past; before even the Hudson's Bay Company had begun to get rich by befriending the poor Indian; before the missionary had persuaded him to adopt a new and better form of conjuring; in the good old days when the ears of the Geetchi-Manitou were tickled with the sound of the drum, instead of the bell : and Geetchi-Manitou were tickled with the sound of the drum, instead of the bell; and when the mighty Wendigo stalked abroad through the bush, wearing in winter, snowshoes of the size of a barn floor, and in summer, when on the run, leaving the impress of his awful foot stamped into the solid rock; there was a famine in the land. The foolish rabbits had disappeared, and the wise beaver refused to be caught, so that the people were on the verge of starvation, and many a father, and head of a family, had cast longing eyes upon his fattest relative, with a view to replenishing the larder. In those days Cheynah was chief, and beloved of the people; for he was bold, and a mighty hunter. Though he was well advanced in years, the fire of his youth was in him and not a handsomer man amongst them trod the dizzy mazes of the war dance, or hurled in sport the fintheaded spear; in

who adored him, but in a maidealy, modest manner, such as becomes an Indian maiden with the same gait, nor did manner, such as becomes an Indian maiden with the same gait, nor did manner, such as becomes an Indian maiden with the same gait, nor did manner, such as becomes an Indian maiden with the same gait, nor did manner, such as becomes any paper with thin it was forth, play bo-peep with him in the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did manner to the paper with the same gait, nor did as the paper with the same gait, nor did age before one saile habout it, had been the paper with the same gait, nor did age before a saile har was white as snow a numual thing amongst Indians, who often arrive at a good old age before a single hair turns gape, the lard was white as snow an unumual thing amongst Indians, who often arrive at a good old age before a single hair turns gape. But the with the same gait the word a silence fell upon the people, a silence of awe and expectation, while Chepnah, if the color of his skin had permitted him, would have turned pale, for in his heart, and you will be fed in abundance. The Geetchie-Manner, "hear me I draumed a draum hast hight, a dream obload. I looked upper time, the paper is the source of the paper with the source of the poper with the source

has said it. It is not ye to it."

I speak for him; look ye to it."

And so saying, he glided from their midst and entering his conjuring tent, commenced a vigorous tattoo on his conjuring drum, a sign that he was engaged in holding interviews with familiar spirits, and no one dare interrupt him by further questioning concerning this great sacrifice that Cheynah, was called upon to make.

them down, saying.

"We are deceived. Matchi-a-waygwan (meaning, the devil's in it.) The cakes are not half cooked and are more than half sand."

Then Kookookoohoo arose and spake with a loud voice:

"Ye have been deceived. Cheynah has deceived you, and tried to deceive the Geet-

Cheynah however, hung his head in silence, and in spite of his great love for he people, seemed rather bewildered, until the shouts of the people calling him by name recalled him to a sense of his position and his

called him to a sense of his position and his duty.

"My children," he said, "the terms of the Geetchie-Manitou are hard, but for your sakes I am ready to do his bidding. Assemble therefore, this evening on Wabikeesick's Point. Let every man, woman and child be there. I do not ask you to come and starve, for I have yet one dog uneaten. He is not very fat, but he was my largest and best-beloved dog; come therefore, and eat him. I give him to you, a foreshadow of the greater sacrifice that I make tor your sakes this night, and if the Kookookochoo has not lied, to-morrow, ere the sun agaia rises, you will

night, and if the Kookookookoo has not lied, to-morrow, ere the sun again rises, you will have meat in plenty. I have spoken."

And Cheynah moved maestically away, seeking the solitude of the woods, where no one followed him except Picodjeesie the persistent, whom the people pitied because of her unrequited love.

That night Wabikeesick's Point presented a wild and weird appearance. A circle had been cleared in the bush, in the center of which roared and crackled a tremendous been cleared in the bush, in the center of which roared and crackled a tremendous fire, around which the Indians were assembled in groups, the natural erocity of their faces enhanced by famine, their eyes glaring wolfishly as they waited in silence the manifestation of the power of their Geetchie-Manitou. Apart from them snd further away from the fire were grouped the women, who were less reticent and who discussed in awed whispers the probable victim, while they gnawed the bones of Cheynah's dog, which, true to his promise, lad already been sacrificed. Kookookoohoo, the conjurof, sat with his keen, cruel eyer glittering with excitement, surrounded by he lesser brethren of the craft, four in number, only less sinister in appearance than their high priest, all carrying their drums and other paraphernalia of their order, and clothed only in the scantiest attire, which only just conformed to the laws of even hadian decease. the scantiest attire, which only just conformed to the laws of even indian decency.

At last the hour had arrived. The mid-

night moon had just emerged red and blood-like from behind the pine-tlad hills of the eastern shore, when at a given signal from Kookookoohoo, the Indians formed a circle round the central fire, hand in hand, old and round the central fire, hand in hand, old and young, from the oldest veteran to the child just able to walk, they commenced slowly to move around singing in unison a plaintive chant led by Kookokoohoo, whose voice could be heard above the rest as the filing of a saw is plainly distinguishable above the roar of the machinery of a saw mill in motion. Suddenly a blood-curdling shout announced the arrival of Cheynah, who, amidst a deafening habboo of drums. who, amidst a deafening habboo of drums, leaped into the circle attired in the wildest war-paint, with his heaviest flint-headed tomahawk in hand which he flourished over his head and with which he slew scores of

had cast longing eyes upon his fattest relative, with a view to replenishing the larder. In those days Cheynah was chief, and beloved of the people; for he was bold, and a mighty hunter. Though he was well advanced in years, the fire of his youth was in him and nota handsomer man amongst them trod the dizzy mazes of the war dance, or hurled in sport the flintheaded spear, in the use of which he far eclipsed they all.

It was not likely that such a Beau Brummer in a blanket, or Chesterfield in war paint, would escape the admiration of the lucky spouse of this great man; and though in these good old times polygamy was not counted a sin, yet Cheynah had but one wife, for he loved her so, that he had sworn to her by the sacred drum, that while she lived, no other woman should share his wigwam, a devotion which his wife repaid by living a very long time, much to the inconvenience of one Picodjeesie, "The Sand Fly" who adored him, but in a maidenly, modest manner, such as becomes an Indian maiden. She would throw wild berries at him as he sat at meat in his tent; or when he went forth, play bo-peep with him in the bushes, apparently afraid lest she should be caught, yet ever placing herself in his way, so that he could catch her if he felt so inclined. At length Picodjeesie's attentions became so persistent that they did not escape his head and with which he slew scores of imaginary enemies.

The people now ceased their circling and their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the slow up the chant alone, and their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the iroda their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the iroda their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the iroda their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the iroda their chant, standing still in their chant, shad in the iroda their chant, s

chie-Manitou. He has sacrificed his wife, whom he hated, and has spared Picodj who he loved. The Geetchie Manitou, who he loved. The Geetchie-Manitou, who knows how to cook, began to make the cakes in a proper manner, but in his wrath at the deception of Cheynah, he did not finish cooking them and has thrown sand into them as well. Indians, be avenged! Hasten back to the camp and tear the traitor to pieces."

At which the whole rabble started with a make for the camp where the camp and the same than the same that the same than the same than the same than the same than the

rush for the camp, where, in confirmation of Kookookoohoo's denunciation, they found Cheynah in the act of consoling Picodjeesie for the fright he had given her. His arms were around her, and the attitude was such

were around her, and the attitude was such as to justify the suspicion that all the love was not on Picodjeesie's side.

The Indians, like wolves upon defencless deer, fell upon them and, obeying the injunction of Kookookoohoo, literally tore them to pieces. Indeed, they would have slain every one in the chief's family, but Kookookookoohoo prevented them by asying.

koohoo prevented them by saying:
"Me-tib-i-ce (meaning, it is enough). The
Geetchie-Manitou is appeased," which may
have been true, but he never finished baking

have been true, but he never finished baking those cakes, and there they are to this day, witnesses to the veracity of this legend, worn and crumbling with age, but still to all appearances gritty, half-baked cake

How the Indians managed for food the legend does not say, but as Cheynah was fat, his wife fairly so, and Picodjeesie by no means slender, it is more than likely that they provided a feast for the half-starved savages, which at least in quality, if not in quantity, surpassed that provided by the Geetchie-Manitou.

Lake Temiscamingue, Que.

Lake Temiscamingue, Que.

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