

St. John Illustrated.



FIFTY years make little difference in the appearance of some places. On the other side of the ocean are cities, towns and villages, which, in all that pertains to the streets and the houses, look to-day much as they did half a century ago. A man of seventy, who had left his native place at the age of twenty, would find on his return that the changes during his absence had been in respect to the people rather than to their surroundings. He would find few, if any, to recollect him, but he could walk through the streets and at every step recognize something which was familiar to him when he was a boy. The city had been finished long before, and its growth in later years had been so slight as to be scarcely perceptible to the eye of anybody who visited it after a long absence.

In the more recently settled portions of America are cities which are the absolute antitheses of some which are to be found in Europe. They have grown up as of yesterday, and every building tells on its face of haste for practical ends, of the rush of the crowd in the pursuit of business, of money-making for the sake of money, and of the pace that makes or breaks. There is the absence of that settled "home" feeling which is prized by all to whom life is something more than a mere day to day drudgery. There is the evidence of that servitude to which a man binds himself when he has no higher object in life than to get rich.

The city of Saint John is characterized by neither of these two extremes. It is not an ancient city, nor is it of the modern mushroom growth. It is old enough to be eminently respectable, and modern enough to be in line with the march of progress at the latter end of the nineteenth century. It has not a new, unfinished look, nor is it likely to be a finished city in the sense of reaching a certain point and coming to a standstill. Each year sees an advance in its progress, and with the great and recognized possibilities the advance must be proportionally more rapid in the years to come. The trouble with some of its people, in the past, has been that they have expected too much and have been impatient at what seemed slow, but was undoubtedly sure, progress. They are more confident now, and with good reason, for the outlook is becoming brighter year by year. The city of Saint John has a future, but meanwhile it has a present. It is of this present, rather than of the past or future, that these pages have something to say. Everybody in St. John knows that the city was founded by the Loyalists who left New York after the close of the Revolution. They landed here on the 18th day of May, 1783, a date which will ever be held in honor, and which