

The History of Tracadie.



HIS is the second of a series of papers devoted to important New Brunswick settlements of which the history has not yet been adequately recorded. In the introduction to the first, which dealt with Miscou, I gave the plan I have in mind for them all, which in brief is this,—to describe the physical characteristics of each place, to outline its earlier history, to emphasize the origin of its present settlement, to indicate the part it has had in the peopling and progress of New Brunswick, and to give full references to all published matter relating to it. In following numbers, I hope thus to treat Pokemouche, Caraquet, Shippegan, Tabusintac, and other places along the North Shore to Shediac.

First of all, what kind of a place is Tracadie? If the reader will open before him a map of New Brunswick, and will fix his attention upon its northeastern part, he will see that the coast runs in a sinuous curve southwest from Miscou to Miramichi. Nearly midway, a little to the south, lies Tracadie, spread along the shore and up two rivers. All this part of New Brunswick slopes down gently under the sea, while land and ocean interlock; the sea cuts into the land in long tidal rivers, while the land pushes low rock-founded headlands out into the ocean. And all along the coast, festooned from headland to headland, lie the great incurving sand-beaches, enclosing long shallow and marshy lagoons through which the rivers find their devious ways to the sea through unstable and shifting