

Nama-Way-Qua-Donk—The Bay of Sturgeons

(Written in Boyhood)

Commonly known as Colpoy's Bay, an arm of the Georgian Bay. This is a beautiful sheet of water, nine miles long, surrounded by lofty cliffs of limestone, crowned by forests, once the haunt of a tribe of Indians called Petons, or "Tobacco Indians."

Medwayosh is a word of Ojibway origin, resembling the sound of the waves beating or washing on the shore.

Cold in the autumn night—
Sleeping with its waters bright,
Gilded by the moon's pale light,
Stretching to the northward white—
Rests the Bay of Sturgeons.

Huddled round it, sleeping soft,
Looming their great forms aloft
In the moonlight;

Bearded, grey, the great rocks stand
Silent, hushed, on either hand,
As if some dusky warrior band,
To-night, hushed, from the spirit land,
Came back once more.

Gliding here on either shore,
Lingering near the haunts of yore,
But to hear the waves once more
As in nights long, long before,
Whisper: Medwayosh.

Towering stern, each blanket round,
Have the silent ages wound,
As they watched above each mound,