

some few places) the peril of the undertaking. It is, however, far from impracticable, and when he arrives at the latter point (it took us *in all* three hours and a half to do so), if he then feels inclined he can go further, and will no doubt find objects of interest to compensate his energetic perseverance.

Here we scaled the heights, and soon found ourselves at York Redoubt, where, by virtue of the *pass*, we became at once free of the premises, and were showed round with much courtesy and attention. The most striking objects in the Fort are the heavy ordnance, those nineteen ton guns, which we were assured would carry the conical shot and shell piled around, across Thrum Cap and as far as Devil's Island, more than four miles distant, while they could be depressed to bear upon an object half a mile from the shore. We forgot to enquire how the guns got there, and are still somewhat anxious to learn the process, if they were first landed at the foot of this eminence. The knowledge may help to solve the problem of the mechanical appliances by which the old Egyptian engineers got their big stones to the top of the pyramids.

It now only remained to get back to the city by the easiest route. The main road from York Redoubt to the Ferry, barely, if at all passable, for a carriage, is susceptible of great improvement, which is certainly due to the inhabitants of the villages in this direction, who number several hundreds, and depend entirely upon their boats for communication with Halifax. It is not, however, bad exercise for the pedestrian, and will always be preferred to the boulder route by the shore. The ferry was soon gained, and crossing the party reached the city, delighted with the excursion, only regretting that a larger number of the members had not been present to share the pleasure, and so to manifest their approval of an enjoyable feature of the work of the Institute.

W. G.

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