

Methodist Magazine and Review

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CANOE LIFE IN CANADA.

The birch-bark canoe is the most striking achievement of our native Indians. "The canoe," says Mr. H. M. Robinson, is part of the savage. After generations of use, it has grown into the economy of his life. What the horse is to the Arab, the camel to the desert traveller, or the dog to the Eskimo, the birch-bark canoe is to the Indian. The forests along the river shores yield all the materials requisite for its construction. Cedar for its ribs, birch bark for its outer covering, the thews of the juniper to sew together the separate pieces, and red pine to give resin for the seams and crevices.

"All the forest life is in it— All its mystery and magic, All the lightness of the birch tree, All the toughness of the cedar, All the larch tree's supple sinews, And it floated on the river Like a yellow leaf in autumn, Like a yellow water-lily."

"During the summer season the canoe is the home of the red man. It is not only a boat, but a house; he turns it over him as a protection when he camps, he carries it long distances overland from



lake to lake. Frail beyond words, yet he loads it down to the water's edge. In it he steers boldly out into the broadest lake, or paddles through wood and swamp and reedy shallow. Sitting in it he gathers his harvest of wild rice, or catches fish, or steals upon his game; dashes down the wildest rapid, braves the foaming torrent, or lies like a wild bird on the placid waters. While the trees are green, while the waters dance and sparkle, and the wild duck dwells in the sedge ponds, the birch-bark canoe is the red man's home.

"And how well he knows the moods of the river! To guide his canoe through some whirling eddy, to shoot some roaring waterfall, to launch it by the edge of some fiercely-rushing torrent, or dash down a foaming rapid, is to be a brave and skillful Indian. The man who does all this, and does it well, must possess a rapidity of glance, a power in the sweep of his paddle, and a quiet consciousness of skill, not obtained save by long years of practice.

"But the old canoe-life of the Fur Land is rapidly passing away. In many a once well-beaten pathway, naught save narrow trails over the portages, and rough wooded crosses over the graves of travellers who perished by the way, remains to mark the roll of the passing years."

The accompanying cut, by Mr. Henry Sandham, the distinguished Canadian artist, is one illustrating an article on Missionary Adventure among our Canadian Indians, in the forthcoming volume of The Methodist Magazine and Review.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSON XI.—DECEMBER 13.

CAUTIONS AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.

Prov. 23. 15-25. Memory verses, 19-21. GOLDEN TEXT.

For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty.—Prov. 23. 21.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read the Lesson (Prov. 23. 15-25). Learn the Golden Text.

Tuesday.—Read the drunkard's sufferings (Prov. 23. 29-35). Learn the Memory Verses.

Wednesday. Read the woes of the drunkard (Isa. 5. 29-35).

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