

A FOOT AND A FIELD.

The Rambler on Allumette Island.

Historical Reminiscences.

Last week I was discoursing about Shoon and the people whom I have met during my pleasant sojourn in that highly-favoured region. This week the reader will be brought, in imagination of course, over what is called the "Government Road," through the Township of Chichester, and from thence to the Allumette Island.

On leaving Sheenboro I was impressed with nothing more than the great progress which the important industry of agriculture had made in what was a comparatively new settlement. I visited in succession the pleasant homes and fertile fields of Messrs. John McGoldrick, Michael Gleason, George Morris, Mrs. McCool, Jas. Walker, Jno. McCauley, Timothy Kennedy, Arthur Devine, Archibald McDonnell, Thomas Paine (no relation at all to the atheist of that name), John Sullivan, Peter Langan, &c., &c., and everywhere I was made a witness of the most substantial evidences of contentment and prosperity.

PIONEER DAYS.

Privations and troubles in abundance, these good Irishmen of Shoon have had in their struggles with rude nature, and the story of their efforts to keep soul and body together, whilst driving back the primitive forest, is sometimes both amusing and pathetic; but this is the history of every settlement attempted in any part of Canada at any time during the first half of the present century. Many of the men who make our laws to-day, as well as a number of those who administer them, will tell you quite proudly of the long distances their fathers had to travel on foot, with the little bag of wheat on their backs, before the nearest little grist-mill was reached; and boastingly (small wonder!) will they recount the struggles of their sires over lake and river, mountain, moor, and morass, before the little "lock of wheat" returned to the log cabin.

A GLORY THAT HAS PASSED.

Eight miles from Sheenboro' I reach the Village of Chichester. This I was told, was a hustling little place at some remote period of the world's history, but there are strong indications that its glory has departed, and that the sun of its greatness has set. It contains a post-office, a store, blacksmith's shop and hotel, besides a number of fairly respectable houses, most of them untenanted. I was told however, that the occupants of the latter had not yet returned from their summer resorts, hence the death-like stillness prevailing. The well filled village store is owned by Mr. Patrick McMahon, who is evidently striding onward, along the path that leads to wealth and fame, and very few who know "Patsy" will envy his good luck. The leading and only hotel in the place is kept by Mr. W. J. Wheolly. Calling upon this gentleman, and announcing both myself and my mission, I was received with many demonstrations of good will. In the midst of deep emotion he assured me that both in his heart and in house, there was always a warm corner for the newspaper tramp.

PAST AND PRESENT ALLUMETTE.

Allumette Island, as its name would indicate, is an island situated on a widened expanse of the Ottawa River, called Allumette lake, and is about twenty miles long, with a width varying from four to six miles. It is a separate municipality and belongs both for Parliamentary and Judicial purposes to the county of Pontiac. It contains a population of 1,500, all with the exception of four families being ardent adherents of the Catholic faith. I have not heard that those few families need in their midst the

presence of a "Protestant Protective Association;" indeed I am proud to be able to bear testimony to the fact, that this treatment meted out to them is on a par with the generous course so eminently characteristic of the great Province of Quebec in its dealings with the Protestant minority. Another peculiarity in that those professing the Catholic religion are about equally divided between those of Irish and French origin.

Allumette Island was surveyed and thrown open for settlement in the year 1846, the land being held at 80c. per acre. Amongst the first settlers were Messrs. Andrew Whelan, now in the ninety-first year of his age, and still hale and hearty, Cornelius Hynes, Abraham Mousseau, John Honey, John McKinley, John Kelly, Patrick Fox, John Mulligan, J. B. Larond, Louis Perreault, Samuel Adams, mill-owner, Edward Monk, Louis Therrien, Hugh Isctie, Terence Smith, Philip Tacknoy, Michael Driscoll, James, John and Frank McGuire, Patrick O'Donnell, George Stubbs, lumber merchant, J. Wittomere, William and John Fitzpatrick, Jeffrey O'Donohoe, Wm. Gregg, Michael and Donald McNeill, Charles Warren, Terence Duff, Edward Gallagher, Jas. Dunn, Thomas Cahill, Alexander Ban Macdonell, Alexander Hugh Macdonell, John and Alexander Kennedy, Donald and Alexander McGillivray, John O'Brien, John Ryan, Michael Culleton, Thos. Leahy, Walter Fitzhenry, Patrick Donnellan, Archibald Gribben, James Kellett, William and John Groy, Joachim Raymond, Olivier LaRiviere, F. X. Gaudette, Michael Gaudette, &c., &c.

THE CHURCH IN EARLY DAYS.

Before settlement on the "Island" had actually commenced a modest frame church was built at a place called the "Point," which was attended by Rev. Father Morreau, for many years a missionary in the North-West. The erection of the church was largely the work of Mr. J. B. Poupore, grandfather of Mr. W. J. Poupore, for many years the popular member for Pontiac in the Quebec Legislature, and the father of a family who have done much to lessen the burthens of the settlers on Allumette Island in their pioneer struggles with the trackless forest.

On the 16th of May, 1853, one of those appalling fires passed over the Island, devastating everything—forest, fields, houses, barns and church in its course, and ceasing its ravages only when there was nothing further to feed upon.

In 1855 the handsome frame church, so well known to the second generation of Catholics on the "Island," was erected, Mass in the meantime being said in a temporary house built for the priest; and this in its turn, in accordance with the onward march of improvement, gave way to the magnificent crest of architecture which now crowns the crest of a hill overlooking the village of Chapeau, and which is at once the pride and the glory of priest and people in Allumette Island. This was erected during the incumbency of the present pastor, Father Leduc, which dates from the year 1888.

AN EARLY MISSIONARY.

Away back in the forties a young Irish priest, full of life and energy, and with an ardent thirst for glory in his sacred calling was assigned to the parish of Allumette Island. This was the Rev. James Lynch. The parish over which Father Lynch exercised spiritual jurisdiction embraced as wide an area as some European monarchies. Northward, as far as the Polar regions, west and south, and east, over forests of magnificent lengths he was monarch of all he surveyed. Many are the stories which I have heard him relate of his journeyings through the wilderness, to offer up the solemn mysteries of religion in some remote primitive

settlement or mayhap to bring consolation to the soul of some dying penitent; his route leading through unexplored solitudes, with nothing to guide him but the Indian track, or the surveyor's "blaze"

Full of years, and revered by all, irrespective of creed or of nationality, Father Lynch closed a life of usefulness here about eight years ago.

TO-DAY.

Of the good man who, at present, wields the pastoral sceptre in Allumette Island, I can say that he appears in every sense fitted to bear the mantle of his sainted predecessor. Zealous, able, and thoroughly conversant with both languages, the parish, under his jurisdiction, is destined to win fresh victories. The church, of which I have already spoken, and the commodious presbytery, which he has also built, will hand down to posterity a record of a portion of his good deeds; but the holy zeal and active temperament of Father Leduc will not allow him to stop here.

And now to "conclude and finish," as the Irish ballad-singer would shout, I have to thank Father Leduc for his kindness towards myself. To the eloquent words which he uttered from the pulpit of his church I owe much of the success which has attended me in his parish. Nor must I omit in this connection a hurried reference to the services rendered to me by that patriotic Irishman—Mr. Wm. Sarsfield—who was my right bower during the whole campaign. May his shadow never grow less! RAMBLER.

Election of Officers.

A large and influential meeting of the Catholic Young Ladies Literary Association was held in St. Patrick's Hall, McCaul street, on Monday, Nov. 12th. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Hon. Pres., Mrs. W. Kavanagh.
President, Miss A. Lyne.
Vice President, Miss N. Kelly.
Recording Secretary, Miss Sexton.
Corresponding Secretary, Miss M. A. Moran.
Treasurer, Miss Regan.

Mrs. Eugene O'Keefe was enrolled as the second honorary member—Lady Smith being the first.

Four new members were voted in. A musical club, under the direction of Miss Nora Hillary, has been organized. The Secretary was instructed to notify members of the Catholic choirs to that effect, inviting them to join. The next rehearsal takes place on Saturday evening, Nov. 17th, and the usual meeting on Monday, Nov. 19th.

The City of the Dead.

INTERMENTS IN ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY.

Luke P. Dillon, died Nov. 3, aged 3 years
Richard J. Burns, " " 3, " 9 mos.
Jane McKee, " " 4, " 39 years
Thos. S. Hickey, " " 4, " 3 mos.
Patrick Frawley, " " 4, " 83 years
Mary Jane Martin, " " 5, " 6 y 10 m
Hanner Innuto, " " 6, " 7 mos.
Johanna Henry, " " 6, " 65 years
John Noonan, " " 7, " 54 years
Bridget Franklin " " 7, " 75 years
Patrick Harrington " " 7, " 3 1/2 years
John Ghonna " " 8, " 1 moe.
Joseph Jobin " " 9, " 2 wks.
Justus Lapreche " " 10, " 6 years
Mary M. Hubbert " " 9, " 5 y 4 m.
Margaret Slattery " " 9, " 58 years
Michael Foley " " 10, " 49 years
Wm. Fitzsimmons " " 10, " 78 years
William Enright " " 10, " 10 y 8 m.

Obituary.

On the 7th instant, at her family home-stead, No. 29 Yorkville avenue, there passed away peacefully Mrs. Bridget B. Franklin, relict of the late Launcelet Franklin of Montreal. The deceased had passed her seventy fifth year. She was born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland, and came to Canada at the age of eighteen. When her son Mr. J. J. Franklin was appointed as superintendent of the Street Railway in 1881 the family removed to Toronto, where they have since lived. Besides Mr. J. J. Franklin now Manager of the Electric Traction Company of New York, Mrs. Franklin left four daughters, three of whom are in Toronto, and the fourth, now a member of the Order of Gray Nuns, is at the Convent of the Order in Minneapolis. Requiem High Mass was celebrated in St. Basil's Church on Friday, 9th instant by Rev. L. Brennan assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. Funeral was to St. Michael's cemetery.

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DIVIDEND NO. 70.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of 4 per cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company has been declared for the current half-year, payable on and after the

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At the office of the Company, corner of Victoria and Adelaide streets, Toronto. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 17th to the 30th November, inclusive. By order of the Board.

S. O. WOOD, Managing Director.
Toronto, 31st October, 1894.

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Miss Elliott, Mr. D. Herald, A.T.C.M., Pianist,
Miss Herson, Mr. C. Wagner, Violin.
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