

seeking recreation and rest in this pleasant nook. The natural advantages, as a watering-place, are admirable. The beach is a fine one and well sheltered. Bathing here is a luxury. A little distance from the shore are a number of picturesque islands, around which pleasure boats glide, and upon which are the resorts of picnic parties. The situation of Kamouraska is all that can be desired.

Twenty miles below is the village of Notre Dame du Portage, deriving its name from the fact that the portage across to New Brunswick, a distance of about 26 miles, was formerly made from this point. The village is six miles from Riviere du Loup by rail, and connection is also had by a good carriage road. It is a retired spot, resorted to by families who are fond of a quiet vacation, but having a fine beach and good bathing is well worthy of a more extended fame. Those who have passed their summers amid its beauties have much to say in its praise.

RIVIERE DU LOUP.

Here is a place not to be passed by under the impression that its chief beauties are to be seen from the car windows. It is a village of considerable importance, with a well established reputation as a summer resort, and is in many respects a most convenient place for the tourist. It is a centre from which one may go to various points, either on the St. Lawrence or back into the woods where game and fish abound, making this the head-quarters for the deposit of luggage and the receipt of mail matter. The full title of the place is Riviere du Loup, *en bas*, the affix being given to distinguish it from another village of the same name, *en haut*. As the two are two or three hundred miles apart, the distinction has not always been very clear to strangers. This is, however, the Riviere du Loup to which letters are sent in the absence of any qualifying words. The portion of the village near the water is termed Fraserville, in honor of the Fraser family, in whom the Seigniorial Rights were vested, after the conquest of Canada in the last century.

Situated near the confluence of the Riviere du Loup and the St. Lawrence, and being directly on the shore of the latter, the place abounds in picturesque scenery of all kinds. Near the railway the smaller river makes a descent of more than 200 feet, by a succession of falls which make their way through a gorge over which high and precipitous rocks stand sentinel. In the vicinity, "hills peep o'er hills," clothed in all the varying hues of green, while

toward the St. Lawrence the open country, sprinkled with well-finished houses, makes a pleasing contrast to the rugged aspect of the land which lies in the rear. Upon the shore a glorious prospect is opened to the view. Here the estuary begins to widen in its journey to the sea, and the mountains on the northern shore, a score of miles away, stand out in bold relief against the clear blue sky. Upon the waters, just far enough away to "lend enchantment to the view," are the white-winged argosies of commerce, bearing the flags of every maritime nation. At times, a long, low shape on the waves and a long, slender cloud floating lazily away marks the path of the ocean steamship. Nearer the shore are smaller craft of all sizes and shapes—fishers, traders and seekers after pleasure. If one longs to join them, a boat is at hand and soon is dancing on the gentle billows, while the sea-birds skim the waters in their circling flights, and the solemn-eyed *loup-marin* rises near at hand, vanishes and rises again, as if sent by Neptune to demand the stranger's errand. It was from these creatures, say some, that the river derived its name, rather than from the ill-visaged wolf of the forest. It is more pleasant to think so, at all events.

The waters around us abound in all kinds of creatures, great and small. The chief of these is the white whale, the *Beluga borealis*, which is usually, but erroneously, termed the white porpoise. Its length is from fourteen to twenty-two feet, and each carcass yields something over a hundred gallons of oil. This oil, when refined, is worth about a dollar a gallon, and as there is no scarcity of the creatures, the fishery might be made a very valuable one. It requires considerable capital to fit out and carry on an establishment for this purpose, and so far only one gentleman has had sufficient faith to persevere in it. He has a steam-yacht, nets and other apparatus, and is confident that, properly managed, there is "millions in it." The halibut and sturgeon come next in order of size, after them the salmon and then all the smaller fish common to this latitude.

Returning to the shore, if the day be bright and warm, the long line of smooth beach, abounding in cosy nooks and corners, invites a bath. The adjective "warm" is the correct one for this part of the continent in summer, it being a relative term which denotes an absence of cold without an excess of heat. It is never hot here. The days when coats, collars and cuffs become a burden and humanity wilts in the shade are unknown on these shores. The rays of the midsummer sun are tempered