



MISCELLANY.

AN ADVENTURE ON THE MER DE GLACE.

In a Letter to H. C., Esq. Geneva, August 10, 1830. Concluded.

In such a situation, how many thoughts crowd on the mind. I thought of home and of the few still left, who might make a five-days' wonder of us whilst sitting round a bright fire, should the news ever reach them; but even that was scarcely probable;—we might be seen, perhaps, but not alive, as we could never have survived the night; and what a death to die! by cold and hunger, in regions of ice and snow! After sitting some time and taking a gloomy glance around, my companion resolved to try the desperate alternative: he said, truly enough, to remain where we were was certain destruction, and we could but attempt to pass over, even though the failure would accelerate our otherwise inevitable fate. No time was to be lost, and we prepared to cross the ridge, narrow as the bridge which leadeth to the Mahometan paradise, and almost as hopeless to attempt. My companion took the lead. The end of the ridge next to us was somewhat lower than the block of ice we were on, and sunk down in the middle with a slight curve—and at the other end it rose about four feet. My friend sat down, with his legs hanging over the yawning abyss, and lowering himself upon the ridge, placed his hands before him, drew his body along, precisely, as you may have seen boys draw themselves along a scaffold-pole, laid horizontally: we had the advantage, however, of steadying ourselves by pressing our legs against the ice. Having in this manner—

My companion thought it could not be done; however, as I had for some time conceived our escape hopeless, I became careless of what might befall me. I threw my staff over, and, retiring a few paces, sprang over, and came with nose and knees on the ice with considerable violence, too happy in having accomplished the main object to care much about the minor evil of peeling my "flippers" against the sharp corners, and alighting upon the ice with a force which shook me to the centre. My companion followed, and fortunately, this proved the last of our dep-

gers; and so powerfully had we been excited for the last three hours, that difficulties and disagreeables were now passed by unheeded. We found the remaining part of the glacier tolerably connected, and, after floundering about for some time, had the happiness to come to terra firma, at the bottom of the rocks, near the spot where we stopped for refreshment in the morning.

We hurried along as fast as the rude track would allow us, my fingers and legs smarting from the wounds they had received; but although our progress was far from pleasant (it poured a deluge still,) the dangers we had so wonderfully escaped, impressed our minds with indescribable feelings of thankfulness—we seemed almost miraculously to have been rescued from an inevitable and awful death. And now the pangs of hunger assailed us; we had eaten nothing since six o'clock in the morning; it was at this time four in the afternoon, and we had far to go. We had been too earnestly engaged for some hours to think of eating, or indeed to feel an appetite. My friend had a little wine left, which we shared. Our road lay along the edge of the glacier, and at last we came to the "barfaced rock" we passed in the morning. This was a difficulty—

None but those who had undergone the harassing fears and fatigues we had just encountered, could duly appreciate the value of assistance afforded us by such an establishment in such a place, on the summit of a lonely mountain, high up above the clouds. The old man was a Frenchman, and got dinner ready, and some dry clothes, against my arrival, leaving me to follow at leisure. Shortly after five or six men arrived at the Chalet; they had been on the opposite mountains gathering a flock of sixty sheep, which had been scattered the day before by a wolf who came down from the recesses of Mont Blanc. The men had ascended early in the morning from Argentiere, and had, like ourselves, been exposed to the elements, but had not encountered our dangers, being well acquainted with the place; they were dripping wet, and benumbed with cold, and had gathered all the flock but four. One man brought with him the remnants of a sheep, which had been torn in pieces. The shepherds said they had seen two people on the ice in the morning, but conceived it an impossibility to cross the glacier where we did, and wondered at our escape.

After staying some time, I again put on my half-dried clothes, and set off down the mountain for Chamouni; it rained heavily, and in ten minutes I was as wet as ever; the rain blew in my face, and made the clayey path very slippery. However, partly by sliding, and partly by scrambling and catching hold of the roots of the pine trees, in about three quarters of an hour I got to the bottom. The whole valley was enveloped with mist, through which the lower parts of the mountains alone were visible. A mile and a half further brought me to the inn, in as comfortable a plight as any poor fellow needed to be, literally wringing wet. A tub of warm water, a change of clothes, and a good dinner, speedily set all to rights, and, bating my bruised legs and fingers, a little stiffness, and the fright, the next morning found me as well as ever.

Being in delicate health, I was fearful the long exposure to the rain, and being half frozen into the bargain, might be attended with serious consequences; but this time I came off "scot free," and setting off next morning for Geneva, we walked the whole distance (sixty miles) in two days.

P. S. I have since heard the people in the Chalet considered our escape miraculous. I scrawled some lines in the Mountain Album, warning people not to go and do likewise."

Thus I have had good cause to remember the lines of the poet, "Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains They crown'd him long ago, On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds, With a diadem of snow."

THE FROG CATCHER.

"Methought I heard a voice cry sleep no more!" BY MACKETH. Continued. I shall now describe a melancholy joke which they played off on the unfortunate shoemaker;—I say melancholy, for so it proved. A fashionable tailor in a neighbouring village came out with a flaming advertisement which was pasted in the bar room of the tavern, and excited general attention. He purposed to have for sale a splendid assortment of coats, pantaloons and waistcoats, of all colors and fashions; also a great variety of trimmings, such as tape, thread, buckram, frogs, button moulds, and all the endless small articles that make up a tailor's stock.

The next time Timmy made his appearance, they pointed out to him the advertisement. They especially called his attention to the article 'frogs,' and reminded him of the great quantity to be caught in Lilly Pond. 'Why Timmy,' said they; 'if you would give up shoe-making, and take to frog catching, you would make your tail forlorn!'

'Yes, Timmy,' said another, 'you might bag a thousand in half a day, and folks say they will bring a shilling an hundred.'

'For a cent a piece, they brought in New York, when I was there last,' said a cross-eyed fellow, tipping the wink.

'There is frogs enough in Lilly Pond,' said Timmy; 'but it is darnation hard work to catch 'em. I swaggers, I chased one nearly half a day before I took him—he jumped like a grasshopper. I wanted him for bait. There plaguy slippery fellows.'

'Never mind, Timmy, take a fish net and scoop 'em up. You must have 'em alive and fresh. A lot at this time would fetch a great price.'

'I'll tell you what, Timmy,' said one of them, taking him aside. 'I'll go you shares. Say nothing about it to nobody. To-morrow night, I'll come and help you to catch 'em and we'll divide the gain.' Timmy was in raptures.

As Timmy walked home that night, one of those lucky thoughts came into his head, which are always the offspring of solitude and reflection. Thought he, 'these 'ere frogs in a manner belong to me, since my shop stands nearest the pond. Why should I make two bites at a cherry, and divide profits with Jo Gawky? By Gravy! I'll get up early to-morrow morning, catch the frogs and be off with them to the tailor's before sunrise, and so keep all the money myself.'

Timmy was awake with the lark. Never before was there such a stir among the frogs of Lilly Pond. But they were taken by surprise. With infinite difficulty he filled his tin with frogs.

It was a short, stubbed fellow, with a bag on his shoulder, entered the shop. The old gentleman was absorbed in his employment, and did not notice his visitor. But his inattention was ascribed by Timmy, to deafness, and he approached and applied his mouth to the tailor's ear, exclaiming—'I say, mister! do you want any frogs to-day?'

The old gentleman dropped his sheers and sprung back in astonishment and alarm. 'Do you want any frogs this morning?' shouted Timmy, at the top of his voice.

'No!' said the tailor, eyeing him over his spectacles, as if doubting whether he was a fool or a mad man.

'I have got a fine lot here,' rejoined Timmy, shaking his bag. 'They are fresh from the pond, and as lively as kites.'

'Don't bellow in my ears,' said the old man pettishly. 'I am not deaf. Tell me what you want and begone!'

'I want to sell you these 'ere frogs, old gentleman. You shall have them at a bargain. Only one dollar a hundred. I won't take a cent less. Do you want them?'

The old man now got a glance at the frogs, and was sensible it was an attempt at imposition. He trembled with passion. 'No!' exclaimed he, 'get out of my shop, you rascal!'

'I say, do you want 'em?' said Timmy, bristling up. 'I know you want 'em; but you're playing offish like, to beat down the price. I won't take a mill less. Will you have them or not old man?'

'Scoundril!' shouted the enraged tailor, get out of my shop this minute!'

Puzzled, mortified and angry, Timmy turned on his heel, and withdrew. 'He won't buy them,' thought he, for what they are worth, and for taking nothing for them I won't. And yet I don't want to carry them back again; but if ever I plague myself by catching frogs again, may I be bitten! Curse on the old Curmudgeon! I'll try once more!—and he again entered the shop.

with the plagues of Egypt. But old Buckram was in such a passion that he could not answer a word, and they were afraid to venture within the reach of his broom. It is astonishing what talk the incident made in the village. Not even the far-famed frogs of Windham excited more.

Thus were the golden visions of the frog catcher resolved into thin air. How many speculators have been equally disappointed. To be Continued.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE NORTHEASTERN BOUNDARY.

OFFICIAL DECISION OF THE KING OF THE NETHERLANDS. TRANSLATION.

WILLIAM, By the Grace of God, King of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange, Nassau, Grand Duke of Luxemburg, &c. &c. &c.

Having accepted the functions of Arbitrator conferred upon us by the note of the Charge d' Affaires of the United States of America, and by that of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Great Britain, to our Minister of Foreign Affairs, under the date of 12th January, 1829, agreeably to the 5th article of the Treaty of Ghent, of the 24th December, 1814, and the 1st article of the Convention concluded between those Powers, at London, on the 29th of Sept. 1827, in the difference which has arisen between them on the subject of the boundaries of their respective possessions:

Animated by a sincere desire of answering, by a scrupulous and impartial decision, they have testified to us, and thus to give them a new proof of the high value we attach to it.

Having, to that effect, duly examined and maturely weighed the contents of the first statement, as well as those of the definitive statement of the said difference, which have been respectively delivered to us on the 1st of April of the 1830, by the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary mentioned ought to be decided according to the treaties, acts and conventions concluded to the two Powers; that is to say: the Treaty of Peace of 1783, the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation of 1794, the Declaration relative to the River St. Croix of 1798, the Treaty of Peace signed at Ghent in 1814, the Convention of the 29th September, 1827, and Mitchell's Map, and the Map A referred to in that Convention.

We declare that, as to the first point, to wit, the question, which is the place designated in the Treaties as the North-west angle of Nova Scotia, and what are the highlands dividing the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, along which is to be drawn the line of boundary, from that angle to the North-westernmost head of Connecticut River.

Considering, That the High Interested Parties respectively claim that line of boundary at the South, and at the North river St. John, and have each indicated, upon the Map, A. the line which they claim:

Considering, That according to the instances alleged, the term highland applies not only to a hilly or elevated country, but also to land which, without being hilly, divides waters flowing in different directions, and that thus the character more or less hilly and elevated of the country through which are drawn the two lines respectively claimed, at the north, and at the south, of the river St. John, cannot form the basis of a choice between them.

That the text of the Treaty of 1783, recites, in part, the words previously used, in the Proclamation of 1763, and in the Quebec act of 1774, to indicate the Southern boundaries of the Government of Quebec, from Lake Champlain, "in forty five degrees of North Latitude, along the highlands which divide the rivers that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the sea, and also along the north coast of the Bay des Chaleurs."

That in 1763, 1765, 1772, and 1782, it was established that Nova Scotia should be bounded at the North, as far as the western extremity of the Bay des Chaleurs, by the Southern boundary of the Province of Quebec; that this delimitation is again found, with respect to the Province of Quebec, in the Commission of the Governor General of Quebec of 1785, wherein the language of the Proclamation of 1763 and of the Quebec act of 1774 has been used, as also in the Commissions of the Governors of New Brunswick, with respect to the last mentioned Province, as well as in a great number of maps anterior and posterior, to the Treaty of 1783; and that the 1st Article of the said Treaty specifies, by name, the States whose independence is acknowledged:

But that this mention does not imply (implicque) the entire coincidence of the boundaries between the two Powers, as settled by the following Article, with the ancient delimitation of the British Provinces, whose preservation is not mentioned in the Treaty of 1783, and which owing to its continual changes, and the uncertainty which continued to exist respecting it, created, from time to time, differences between the Provincial authorities:

That there results from the line drawn under the treaty of 1783 through the great Lakes, west of the River St. Lawrence, a departure from the ancient provincial charters, with regard to time boundaries:

That one would vainly attempt to explain why, if the intention was to retain the ancient provincial boundary, Mitchell's Map, published in 1755, and consequently anterior to the Proclamation of 1763, and to the Quebec act of 1774, was precisely the one used in the negotiation of 1783:

That Great Britain proposed, at first, the River Piscataqua as the Eastern boundary of the United States; and did not subsequently agree to the proposition to cause the boundary of Maine, or Massachusetts Bay, to be ascertained at a later period:

That the treaty of Ghent stipulated for a new examination on the spot, which could not be made applicable to an historical or administrative boundary:

And that, therefore, the ancient delimitation of the British Provinces, does not, either, afford the basis of a decision:

That the longitude of the North West angle of Nova Scotia, which ought to coincide with that of the source of the St. Croix river, was determined only by the Declaration of 1798, which indicated that river:

That the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation of 1794, alludes to the doubt which had arisen with respect to the River St. Croix, and that the first instructions of the Congress, at the time of the negotiations which resulted in the Treaty of 1783, locate the said angle at the source of the River St. John:

That the latitude of that angle is upon the banks of the St. Lawrence, according to Mitchell's Map, which is acknowledged to have regulated the combined and official labours of the negotiators of the Treaty of 1783; whereas, agreeably to the delimitation of the Government of Quebec, it is to be looked for at the highlands which divide the river that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the sea:

That the nature of the ground east of the before mentioned angle not having been indicated by the Treaty of 1783, no argument can be drawn from it to locate that angle at one place in preference to another:

That the angle of Nova Scotia, here alluded to, has been unknown in 1783, and the Treaty of Ghent having declared it to be unascertained, the mention of that historical angle in the Treaty of 1783 is to be considered as a petition of principle (petition de principe) affording no basis for a decision, whereas, if considered as a topographical point, having reference to the definition, viz: "that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of the St. Croix River to the highlands," it forms simply the extremity of the line along the said highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean," those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean," an extremity which a reference to the north-west angle of Nova Scotia does not contribute to ascertain, and which still remaining itself, to be found, cannot lead to the discovery of the line which it is to terminate:

Lastly, that the arguments deduced from the rights of sovereignty exercised over the Pief of Madawaska and over the Madawaska settlement—even admitting that such exercise were sufficiently proved—cannot decide the question, for the reason that those two settlements only embrace a portion of the territory in dispute, and that the High Interested Parties have acknowledged the country lying between the two lines respectively claimed by them, as constituting a subject of contestation, and that, therefore, possession cannot be considered as derogating from the right, and that if the ancient delimitation of the Provinces be set aside, which is adduced in support of the line claimed at the North of the river St. John, and especially that which is mentioned in the Proclamation of 1763, and in the Quebec act of 1774, no argument can be admitted in support of the line claimed at the South of the river St. John, and which would tend to prove that such part of the territory in dispute belongs to Canada or to New Brunswick.

Considering, That the question divested of the inconclusive arguments drawn from the nature, more or less hilly, of the ground, —from the ancient delimitation of the Provinces,—from the North-west angle of Nova Scotia, and from the actual possession, resolves itself, in the end, to these: which is the line drawn due North from the source of the river St. Croix, and which is the northwesternmost head of the Connecticut river, divides the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those that fall into the Atlantic Ocean;—That the High Interested Parties only agree upon the fact that the boundary sought for must be determined by such a line, and by such a ground; that they further agree, since the declaration of 1798, as to the answer to be given to the first question, with the exception of the latitude at which the line is drawn due North from the source of the St. Croix river is to terminate; that said latitude coincides with the extremity of the ground which, from that line to the northwesternmost source of Connecticut river divides the rivers which empty themselves into the river the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean; and that, therefore, it only remains to ascertain that ground;

That on entering upon this operation, it is discovered, on the one hand,

First, that if, by adopting the line claimed at the North of the River St. John, Great Britain cannot be considered as obtaining a

territory of less value than if she had accepted in 1783 the river St. John as her frontier, taking into view the situation of the country situated between the rivers St. John and St. Croix in the vicinity of thesea, and the possession of both banks of the river St. John in the lower part of its course, said equivalent would, nevertheless, be destroyed by the interruption of the communication between Lower Canada and New Brunswick, especially between Quebec and Frederickton; and one would vainly seek to discover what motives could have determined the Court of London to consent to such an interruption.

That if, in the second place, in contradistinction to the rivers that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence, it had been proper agreeably to the language ordinarily used in geography, to comprehend the rivers falling into the Bays of Funday and des Chaleurs with those emptying themselves directly into the Atlantic Ocean, in the general denomination of rivers falling into the Atlantic Ocean, it would be hazardous to include into the species belonging to that class the Rivers St. John and Restigouche, which the line claimed at the north of the river St. John divides immediately from rivers emptying themselves into the River St. Lawrence, nor with other rivers falling into the Atlantic Ocean, but alone; and thus to apply, in determining the delimitation established by a Treaty, where each word must have a meaning, to two exclusively special cases, and where no mention is made of the genus (genre), a general expression which would ascribe to them a broader meaning, or which, if extended to the Schoodiac Lakes, the Penobscot and the Kennebec, which empty themselves directly into the Atlantic Ocean, would establish the principle that the Treaty of 1783 meant highlands which divide as well immediately as immediately, the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean—a principle equally realised by both lines.

Bay of Funday, and the Bay of Restigouche, and the Bay of Chaleurs:

And on the other hand, that it cannot be sufficiently explained how if the high, Contracting Parties intended, in 1783, to establish the boundary at the South of the river St. John, that river, to which the territory in a great measure, indebted for its distinctive character, has been neutralized and set aside:

That the verb "divide" appears to require the contiguity of the objects to be "divided":

That the said boundary forms at its western extremity, only, the immediate separation between the river Metjarmette, and the northwesternmost head of the Penobscot, and divides, mediately, only the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from the waters of the Kennebec, Penobscot and Schoodiac Lakes; while the boundary claimed at the north of the river St. John divides, immediately, the waters of the rivers Restigouche and St. John, and mediately, the Schoodiac lakes, and the waters of the rivers Penobscot and Kennebec from the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence, to wit: the rivers Beaver, Metis, Rimousky, Trois Pistoles, Green, Du Loup, Kamouraska, Ouelle, Bras St. Nicholas, Du Sud, La Famine and Chaudiere:

That even setting aside the rivers Restigouche and St. John, for the reason that they should not be considered as falling into the Atlantic Ocean the northern line would still be as near to the Schoodiac Lakes, and to the waters of the Penobscot and of the Kennebec, as the southern line would be to the rivers Beaver, Metis, Rimousky and others that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence; and would, as well as the other, form a mediate separation between these and the rivers falling into the Atlantic Ocean:

That the prior intersections of the southern boundary by a line drawn due North from the source of the St. Croix River, could only secure to it an accessory advantage over the other, in case both the one and the other boundary should combine, in the same degree, the qualities required by the Treaties:

And the fate assigned by that of 1783 to the Connecticut, and even to the St. Lawrence, precludes the supposition that the two Powers could have intended to surrender the whole course of each river, from its source to its mouth, to the share of either the one or the other:

Considering That after what precedes, the arguments adduced on either side, and the documents exhibited in support of them, cannot be considered as sufficiently preponderating to determine a preference in favor of one of the two lines respectively claimed by the High Interested parties, as boundaries of their possessions from the source of the river St. Croix, to the Northwesternmost head of Connecticut River; and that the nature of the difference and the vague and not sufficiently determinate stipulations of the Treaty of 1783, do not permit to adjudge either of those lines to one of the said Parties, without wounding the principles of law and equity, with regard to the other:

Considering That, as has already been said, the question resolved itself into a selection to be made of a ground dividing the rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Lawrence from those that fall into the Atlantic Ocean; that the High Interested Parties are agreed with regard to the course