

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN 1765.

Among the documents laid before the House of Assembly at its last Session, and which were ordered to be printed, is the following descriptive account of P. E. Island—then called St. John's Island—furnished to government, by the late Samuel Holland, Esq. Surveyor General of British North America, so far back as the year 1765.

No. 36. Downing Street, 18th November, 1840.

Careful search having been made for the ancient Map of Prince Edward Island, and for the Map or Plan of Georgetown, which you were desirous of obtaining for the information of the House of Assembly, I regret to state, that no trace can be found of those documents.

I enclose, however, a copy of a description of the Island, drawn up by Mr. Holland, in October, 1765, which I hope will prove useful to the Assembly.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, (Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Lieut. Governor Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy, &c. &c. &c.

St. John's is divided into three Counties—King's County, on the East part, has four Parishes, viz: St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's, and the East Parish; and sub-divided into twenty Townships, containing in all 406,000 acres.

SOIL AND PRODUCE.

The soil in general on the South, and South East side of the Island, a reddish clay, though in many places it is sandy, particularly upon the North coast; from the East Point to St. Peter's, is a greyish sand. The woods upon this coast, from the East Point as far Southward as Hillsborough River, and to Bedford Bay on the West, was entirely destroyed by fire, about twenty-six years since—it was so extremely violent, that all the fishing vessels at St. Peter's and Morel, upon St. Peter's Bay and Morel, were burned.

There are no high hills in this part of the Island, but merely a small ascent inland. The Rivers are properly Sea Creeks, the tides flowing up to the heads, where generally streams of fresh water empty themselves. In most parts of the Island the sarsaparilla root is in great abundance, and very good. The mountain-shrub and maiden-hair are also pretty common, of whose leaves and berries the Acadians and Soldiers frequently make a kind of tea.

TIMBER.

Red and white oak, neither of which are in plenty or of large growth; beech and maple very good; black and white birch, the former of which is a useful and handsome wood. The pine is extremely large and fine. In some places is found the curled maple, which takes an excellent polish.

WHAT PARTS OF THE ISLAND ARE BEST SITUATED FOR TRADE AND FISHERY, WITH THE REASONS.

Port Joy, Cardigan, and Richmond Bay, are without dispute the only places where ships of burthen can safely enter, and consequently most proper to erect the principal Towns and Settlements upon. In point of fishing, Richmond Bay has much the advantage of situation; the fish being in great plenty most part of the year, and close to the harbour.

REASONS FOR FIXING THE THREE PRINCIPAL TOWNS (AS PROPOSED), ON WHAT FOUNDED.

The capital, called Charlottetown, is proposed to be built upon a point of the harbour, betwixt York and Hillsborough Rivers, as being one of the best, and nearly a central part of the Island; has the advantage of an immediate and easy communication with the interior parts of the Island, by means of the three fine Rivers of Hillsborough, York, and Elliot. The ground designed for the Town and Fortifications is well situated upon a regular ascent from the water side; a fine rivulet will run through the Town; a Battery or two, some distance advanced, will entirely command the harbour; an enemy attempting to attack the Town cannot do it without great difficulties, viz: having passed the batteries at the entrance of the harbour, they must attempt a passage up Hillsborough or York Rivers, the channels of both of which are intricate, and the entrance of the respective channels will be so near the Town that it must also be attended with the greatest hazard.

GEORGETOWN.

Recommended to be built upon that point of land called Cardigan Point, there being a good harbour for ships of any burthen on each side of Cardigan River, on the North, or Montague River upon the South side; but the latter, though a much narrower channel upon coming in, is preferable, as the Bay for anchoring will be close by the Town. Immediately upon entering the river, and going round the Goose Neck, a long point of dry sand running half over the river, and forming one side of Albion Bay, the place for anchorage, upon the Goose Neck, may be erected a Pier with great ease, and at a small expense, where goods could be shipped and unshipped with great facility and convenience.

The place proposed for the town is so situated as to require very little difficulty in making it secure, as well as at the entrance into the two respective harbours. It ought not to be omitted mentioning the advantage it has of a communication inland by means of Cardigan, Brudenell and Montague Rivers, from the top of which last to the source of Orwell River is not quite ten miles; and Orwell River emptying itself into the great Bay of Hillsborough, makes a safe and short communication betwixt two of the County Towns, both winter and summer.

PRINCETOWN.

Besides the advantages mentioned of Richmond Bay, it is proposed to be built on a most convenient spot of ground, as well for its fisheries as fortifications, being situated on a peninsula, having Darnley Bay on the North East, which is a convenient harbour for small vessels, and where they may be laid up to winter; lying at the entrance to Richmond Bay, with all the convenient grounds for curing and drying of fish about it, and ships of burthen can anchor near in the Bay. For its fortifications, the neck of land can be strengthened with little expense, and some batteries and small works erected along the shore will entirely secure it.

BIRDS, BEASTS, AND FISHES.

Here are Bears, Otters, Martins, Foxes, red, black, and grey, Lynxes or Wild Cats, Minxes, Musk Rats, and some, though very few Caribou, a kind of a Deer; Hares extremely good, but in the winter are white. Of birds, may be accounted the Eagles of their several species, though not very common; Hawks, Partridges, a kind of a Thrush, called Robins, in great abundance, who sing very agreeably; of birds of passage there are a great variety, as Doves, which come in July and August, Corbejaux, a kind of a Woodcock, which fly together in large flocks; Plover, Snipes, Curlews, Outards, a large and fine sort of Wild Goose; the Brant Goose, a smaller sort, but of excellent flavour; Ducks of many kinds, Teel, Moyaques, Cacois, Marchaux, Cacoas, Carmes de Roche, Godelans, Esterlets, Margotts, Godes, Sea Pigeons, Perrigains, &c., many of which are peculiar to this climate; but in the winter there is scarce a bird to be seen except Partridges, and some few straggling wild fowl, who either wait to breed, or are else crippled, and are disabled from accompanying the rest upon their return.

NATURE AND EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE.

The time of setting in of the frosts in winter and their breaking up in the spring is very uncertain, sometimes being a difference of three or four weeks. In general it is observed, that about October there usually begins to be frosts morning and evening, which gradually increase in severity till about the middle of December, when it becomes extremely sharp; at this time a North-west wind, with small sleet, seldom fails. In a little time the rivers on the Island are frozen up, and even some distance from land, upon the Sea coast, the ice soon becomes safe to travel upon, and is at least from 22 or 24 to 30 inches thick. The snow upon the ground and in the woods is often a surprising depth, and its possibility of passing except upon snow shoes. The Acadians now have recourse to little cabins or huts in the woods, where they are screened from the violence of the weather, and at the same time have the convenience of wood for fuel so near them. Here they live upon the fish they have cured in the summer, and other game which they frequently kill, as Hares, Partridges, Lynxes or Wild Cats, Otters, Martins, or Musk Rats, none of which they refuse to eat, as their necessities press them. In the spring the rivers seldom break up till April, and the snow is not entirely off the ground till the middle of May. It ought to be observed here, that as St. John's is fortunately not troubled with fogs as the neighboring Islands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland, neither is it so settled and constant a climate as Canada: here is quick and frequent change of weather, as rain, snow, hail and hard frosts, which sometimes succeed each other in a very small space of time.

The respective divisions of the Island are as near as possible, agreeably to my instructions; the divisions of the Counties, Parishes, and Townships bounded by the Magnetic North and South, or East and West lines, being the most easy way of running the lines for the Surveyors that will be employed on this service, the natural situation of the Island having favoured this method. It is not possible to divide the Counties or Parishes into more equal parts, as the lines otherwise would have been too much confounded and confused; it has also been observed in dividing the Townships to give them a share of what natural advantages the Island afforded. The two inland lots that could not be brought to any Township are left undetermined. There are 520 acres preserved for the first Lot, having 1000 yards to the North, South and West from the centre of Fort Amherst, and to the East as far as the water side; but it must also be remarked that the first Lot takes up almost all the cleared lands of Port Joy.

There may be some small brooks in the centre of the Island not expressed in the plan. The scale proposed to work with, I was obliged to alter to that of 4000 feet to a yard, as we found that sufficiently large and expressive; but should any part be required to be of a still larger scale, it shall be done whenever ordered. The project for laying out the County Towns will be sent by the first opportunity from Louisbourg. Throughout the whole survey has been observed the greatest exactness; and all Rivers and Creeks are surveyed as far as a boat or canoe would go, or the chains penetrate, but sometimes we were obliged to stop, by inaccessible woods and swamps.

(Signed) SAMUEL HOLLAND.

Island St. John's, Observation Cove, October 5th, 1765.

At Clonmell Assizes, on the 17th August, four men named Ryan were indicted for setting fire to the dwelling-house of Patrick Walsh, and James McCarthy for being accessory before the fact. The only witness examined for the prosecution, seems to have been John Lysaght; who said that he was of the party, and that McCarthy sent them on the errand and provided the materials for their crime. Part of this witness's evidence is worth giving at length, for the cool atrocity of its admissions—

Judge Torrens—"Was it you murdered Noonan?" Witness—"No, I joined in it." Mr. Hatchell—"How many men did you murder before this?" Witness—"None."

Mr. Hatchell—"You went with the party to the burning for the love of amusement?" "They induced me to go with them, but did not force me: I was not very unwilling to go after I got the liquor; but when I brought the gun had no such intention." "Did you load the gun before you went out?" "I did." "Had you liberty to carry a gun?" "Yes, from a Magistrate, Mr. Coates, who is since dead."

"Were you ever tried before you committed the murder on Noonan?" "Indeed I was: I was tried here for posting a threatening notice, but it was no such thing." "Were you not sentenced to be transported?" "I was." "Did you not fire shots at the same time?" "Yes." Judge Torrens—"And the reward you gave the Government for bringing you back was murdering Noonan?"

Mr. Hatchell—"You say you were only present at the murder of Noonan: now, was it not you that knocked down the unfortunate man with the but-end of a blunderbuss?" "Yes, the very first." "And do you not call that murdering the man?" "We were all murdering him." "Were you not one of them who carried him into the ditch to hide the body?" "I was."

"Did you know Leonard, the smith?" "I did." "Did you see him killed?" "I saw him struck, but was not looking on at his killing." "Did you give a blow then?" "I did not strike a blow at the man." "Did you give a blow that day?" "Yes, when myself was struck."

"Do you remember Wat Hayes?" "Yes." "You attacked him, but he shot you off?" "No, he did not." "Was not one of your companions shot by Mr. Hayes?" "No, but by a man on the road near me." (Laughter.) "Now tell me, did he not kill one of your friends?" "Oh, he had a party against us, and waylaid us."

"Did you remember Jimmy Hughes, who was killed with a hatchet?" "I did." "Were you looking on at his murder?" "Oh no; he was married to my first cousin." "Were you not taxed with the murder?" "The whole country knew who was in that affair."

"You recollect David Hickey, who was killed at Bilboa?" "I was in the fair." "You were of the party?" "I was looking at him." "That was your third murder?" "A Jaror—" "His fifth murder?" "Did you rob Michael Rogers?" "No; but I got the course of law, and was acquitted."

"You know Mick Griffin; Lord Stradbroke's herd?" "I heard he was shot." "Was your brother Caravat accused of this looseness?" "No; I never heard of it." "Did you not say that you would put a rope about McCarthy's neck?" "I did not. I remember when Kennedy was put out of possession: McCarthy's cattle and premises were burned after this, but the country say himself did it. I never asked a farm of Lord Stradbroke, but my father or brothers might. I never heard McCarthy prevented us getting the farm on the ground of our being so bad. I married, and bless the country with a wife and three children."

Mr. Hatchell—"Do you remember you and your uncle carrying away a woman?" "I do." "Your uncle was transported?" "He was."

"So you have been guilty of one abduction, five murders, and one burning; what else did you do?" Judge Torrens—"Did you commit a rape?" "No." Mr. Hatchell—"Were any of your brothers convicted of rape?" "Yes." "Were you not charged with holding the unfortunate woman while your brother committed the rape?" "No, but another brother was."

Mr. Hatchell—"Would you suggest any other crime in the catalogue of which you were not guilty?" Judge Torrens—"Did you steal cattle?" "No." Mr. Hatchell—"That would be too shabby an offence. When you came to the house of Walsh you lifted one of the Ryans up to the roof?" "Yes." "And you lit the fire?" "I did." "Did you know there were women in the house?" "I partly guessed there were." "Did you mind how many innocent people might have been burned?" "I did not care."

Judge Torrens—"It is unnecessary to examine this man any longer?"

The witnesses for the defence were the Earl of Stradbroke and the Reverend John Ryan; who gave McCarthy an excellent character. The Jury acquitted all the prisoners.

The information sworn by a wretch named Co against Mr. Arthur St. George, junior, touching a fatal assault on the late Mr. Hether, [an Ordnance Major,] were considered by the Crown counsel of the Connaught Circuit so grossly inconsistent and incredible, that they very properly declined to send them to the Grand Jury at the late Assizes for Galway.—Evening Post.

METEORIC STONES.—A writer in the N. York Journal of Commerce communicates the following relation to these bodies, of which we know very little.

It is remarkable that all the meteoric stones, at ever period or in whatever quarter of the globe they have fallen, have appeared, so far as examined composed of the same substances, and to have no similar to them in all the minerals which have been covered in our earth. Some of those stones have been examined immediately after falling, and while they were still hot. What is most astonishing is, that these stones are some of them of large size.

There have been several instances recorded of persons being injured by the fall of aroclites, and one in the last five years.

The Philosophical Transactions contains a relation of a shower of aroclites weighing from three fourths of an ounce to eighteen pounds each, and supposed to be three or four thousand in number, which fell on the 26th of April, 1803, in the neighbourhood of Lisieux in Normandy, on a space about six miles long by two miles wide. In all the accounts of the fall of meteoric stones from the atmosphere, it has been stated that they have been preceded by a luminous meteor, which exploded with a loud noise. It would seem most probable that the whole had been one entire body, and frequently burst into fragments on nearing the spot. The motion of these ignited bodies is stated to have been, for a considerable distance, nearly horizontal, and with great velocity. That these stones were extraneous from the earth, seems improbable, as the earth's surface nothing like them; that they should have formed in the atmosphere, seems inconsistent with the laws of gravitation. Thus, in this matter, as well as in innumerable other candour compels us to acknowledge our ignorance.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISHWOMEN CONTRASTED.—The English girl, with her delicate features and nymphlike figure, is more lovely in her first freshness than the English woman, in her ripeness and full development far surpasses ours. She is superb from twenty to fifty. —Miss Sedgwick, the American Authoress's Letter from Abroad to her kindred at home.

AN AMERICAN'S FEELINGS ON FIRST TOUCHING "OLD COUNTRY." Scene Portsmouth.—Everything novel and foreign to us: the quaint forms of the saddle houses; the arched, antique gateways; the busts niched in an old wall; the very dark colouring the foliage, and the mossy stumps of the trees. We seem to have passed from the fresh, bright youth to the old of the world. The forms and colouring of the people different from ours. They are stouter, more erect, more sanguine.—Ibid.

LEAVING ENGLAND.—It seems like leaving home at a young time. If anything could make us forget that we are travellers, it would be such unstinted kindness as have received here. You cannot see the English in their homes, without reverencing them and loving them; I think, can an Anglo-American come to this, ancestral home, without a pride in his relationship, and an extended sense of the obligations imposed by derivation from the English stock. A war between two countries, in the present state of their relationship would be fratricidal, and this sentiment I have heard expressed on all sides.—Ibid.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A YANKEE.—The following description of a Yankee was given in a recent lecture at Boston:—"If you place him on a rock, in the midst of the ocean with a penknife and a bundle of shingles, he would swim his way on shore. He sells salmon, from Kennebec to the people of Charleston; haddock, 'fresh from Cod,' to the planters of Matanzas; raises coffee in Cayenne; swaps mules and horses for molasses in Porto Rico; carries tails ice, from fresh pond, in Cambridge, to the Indies; mutton, from Brighton, at New Orleans; South America; manufactures 'Morus Multicaulis' the Governor of Jamaica; becomes an Admiral in eight nations; starts in a cockle-shell craft, of fifty tons, laden with onions, mackerel, and other notions numerous to mention, for Valparaiso; baits his trap the Columbia River; catches wild beasts in Africa; Macomber & Co's caravan; sells granite, on contract rebuild San Juan de Ulloa; is ready, like Ledyard, to start for Timbuctoo to-morrow morning; exiles his wife for years from his home, to sketch, in their own wilderness, the 'wild men of the woods,' and astonishes Europe with the seeming presence of the untamed savage. Introduced to Metternich, he asks him, 'What the news?' says, 'How do you do, marm?' to Victor prescribes 'Thomson's Eyewater' to the mandarin of China."

VALUABLE COW.—A Lancashire agriculturist writes, in a letter to the Editor of a London paper:—"I have a cow in my stock which has had five calves, two of which she has dropped since she was in my possession. She is now giving not less than twenty-six quarts of milk daily, and this appearing superior richness, induced me to try what weight butter her milk for seven days would yield. The butter was completed yesterday, and the butter weighed 3½ oz. We make up our butter into printed paper 8 ozs. each, and to the half-pound weight a half-ounce of the new coinage is added. I had a cow ten days ago, which gave 20lbs. 6 ozs. in the week."

The science of Agriculture, is nothing more than an endeavour to discover and cure nature's defects: the grand outlines of it are—"how to make heavy lighter, and light land heavier; cold land hotter, hot land colder." He that knows these secrets is a farmer, and he that does not know them is no farmer.—Davis's Survey of Wiltshire.

The Bank of England covers five acres of ground and employs over nine hundred clerks. Every thing that the use of the Bank is made on its own premises, and the printing of its notes is a large item. A note returned to the Bank is never re-issued, but is burnt away, and at the end of ten years is burnt. The clerks are busily at work every day of the year, except Sunday, in printing notes. At the annual burning days are required, with a large fire, to destroy the notes, and it employs two men constantly in feeding the fire.

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