

THE DAILY EXAMINER

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THE WEEKLY EXAMINER

is issued every Friday morning. It is made up of matter which has appeared in the Daily, and is a first-class newspaper, containing all the latest news. Subscription \$1.00 a year.

THE MODERN

Foundry and Machine Shop

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Founders, Engineers & Machinists, S. Nav. Co's Wharf, Ch'town, P. E. I. Phone 125

Laying of Corner Stone OF NEW CHURCH AT AT TRACADIE.

Grand Picnic On September 20th.

Will be held on the New Church Grounds, only a couple of minutes walk from Tracadie Station.

To see the Church, to be charmed by games, oratory and music and to be entertained in most royal manner, will be the invariable delight of all so fortunate to attend. Without further details sufficient to say, that we guarantee a big time. The sermon on the occasion will be preached by a distinguished pulpit orator.

Besides reduced fares on all regular trains between Ch'town, Souris and George town, special trains will leave Ch'town at 8:30 o'clock, local, and Souris at 8 o'clock, returning will leave Tracadie at 5 o'clock.

Should the weather prove unfavorable it will be held on the following day.

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A VISIT TO THE MAGDALENS.

Their Population, Industries and Requirements.

A LAND OF CLEAR SKIES AND BEAUTIFUL TEMPERATURE.

A Primitive Yet Noble-Souled People—Description of the Isles.

Preferring the pleasures of the race yacht to those of the race horse and a drive over interminable beaches, we crossed the charming bay directly from House Harbor channel to Amherst Island, where we were to enjoy the hospitality of the whole-souled rector for a few days before taking the steamer for home. With a stiff, fair breeze, a skilful pilot, a fleet and reliable craft, and companionship the most congenial, we made the passage in a couple of hours, although the distance covered was not less than twenty-five miles. Of course there was great danger for land lubbers in transit, for there, as on the great ocean, Neptune is always more or less exacting; but although it was reported and often reiterated that the amiable doctor who accompanied us had paid a generous tribute on this occasion, whether we were ourself able to make accurate observation or not it is our firm conviction that, true to his instincts, he delivered up nothing more substantial than a belated syllogism. At any rate we landed early in the afternoon at Amherst Town, admired its many pleasing features, met some of the officials, visited the pretty little gem of a church perched up on elevated ground and protected from the north by the high peaks of Les Demoiselles; took luncheon in the spacious parochial residence intended by the late saintly Rev. Father Boudreau for a convent, and prepared to ride over country en colleche to the basin where Father Therault, who had kindly come to meet us, lives. A pleasant drive through romantic hills, over winding roads lined by comfortable holdings, with the restless ocean in full view to the south of us, and we are set down at our journey's end. The Basin is called after a little basin-shaped pool on the beach beneath us, every year being steadily diminished as the drifting sands fill it up. The ecclesiastical property is most admirably located here on the flank of a ridge of verdant spruce-clad hills, altogether sheltered from the northern blasts. The presbytery is easily the best in the islands. It was built by another reverend Magdalen priest, Father Henri Therault, a beloved class mate of our own, whom the Great Pastor early called to his rich reward. The immense church is now in course of repair or reconstruction, the original costly work done by a Canadian builder having been found entirely defective, thereby entailing on the victimized people a great loss of money. The new contract has been entrusted to an Island builder named Sullivan, formerly of Sparrow's Road, King's County, now resident in the Magdalen, and much in favor for his honesty and capability. At the Basin we enjoyed the salt water bathing, the charming drives, the pure and bracing air of the lovely hills, and have no hesitation in declaring it, taken all in all, the ideal summering spot of the continent. There is, besides, good shooting on the sand bars, and trout fishing behind the mountains such as we cannot find elsewhere. Some of the fish we saw, and we have not availed ourselves of the fishermen's license either, measuring eighteen inches in length. They come into the lagoons on the west side of the island from the deep salt sea, and are of a superior quality for the table. Amherst is like Prince Edward Island more than the other islands of the Magdalen, with the hills thrown in. It is somewhat larger than All Right, and if well farmed would yield a rich return to the husbandman's toil. Up to the present it has not been as well cultivated as its sister islands. The population is 1,350 souls, and there is an immense tract of land behind the hills on the northwestern slope which is capable of supporting almost as many more. Here everybody fishes, the chief centres being Amherst, Basin and West Point, where factories are much in evidence. The drive all along the south bank of the Basin to West Point Light and back by the beach and mountain paths of the west is most enchanting in its picturesqueness. The road follows the high red bank at the base of which the deep-voiced ocean makes its ceaseless melody. Off a mile or two one would think, but in reality much more, Deadman's Island, a small rocky eminence, receiving its name, some say, from the fact that the dead body of a sailor was discovered there in the long ago, others from its erstwhile resemblance to a corpse, stands in grim silence. As we pass the people salute us most cordially everywhere, the men never failing to uncover no matter how occupied at the time, the women with the grace so peculiar to the French, vouchsafing a respectful inclination of their comely heads. After we had crossed the beach at West Point in our circuit of Amherst Island, being unacquainted with the trail which leads to the mountain road on the north west we nearly succeeded in losing ourselves and our horses in the treacherous quicksands which abound there. A hurried undoing of harness, a united vigorous

pull on the tail and the mane of the fast sinking forward horse, which lent itself splendidly to the operation, and we succeeded in placing him again on terra firma when quickly again attaching him to the released vehicle we were soon on our way up the mountain, rejoicing in our safety after so novel and thrilling an experience. A long train of maiden clam-diggers coming along with their loaded charettes were the only witnesses of our rather curious plight and the heroic exertions it necessitated. This mountain road is skirted by groves of spruce, fir and some birch trees. Those few birches and a few rowans were the only deciduous trees we noticed in the islands, if we except the ever present alder. From the summit of those mountains which we climbed at a rapid rate we beheld the sun, now one great mass of molten gold, go down into an ocean of glory, gilding the hills, the cliffs, the bays and reefs and sandbars and casting into the mirror-like lagoons the multiplied reflection of the many bats at anchor, or the slowly flying gulls overawed like ourselves, by the magnificence of the vision before us. The Magdalen sunset will repay a visit to those northern isles despite the opinion of Byron who has immortalized in the Corsair those of suburban skies. "Slow sinks more lovely ere his race be run, Along Morea's hills the setting sun; Not as in northern climes obscurely bright, But one unchanging blaze of living light! O'er the hushed deep the yellow beam he throws, Gilds the green wave that trembles as it glows."

But we must now relinquish those fair islands whose beauties and advantages as a summer resortive we have been imperfectly noting, and before doing so let us say one word of the hardships of winter in them. The Magdalen are as everybody knows completely cut off from the world for six months of the year. There is no communication of any kind then; and the people receive no mails and have no intimation of what is going on outside themselves, except they get news by telegraph, and that is costly and imperfect and dates back only a few years anyhow. It is more than likely that the time will come, and may it come quickly, when this secluded community will have a winter boat to keep up at least some kind of communication with the mainland. It is to be hoped that our experience will profit them much when that day arrives. The Magdalen winter is cold and blustery and the snow deep as with us; and, necessarily, travel over bays and channels is attended with danger. Still the people pass the long season pleasantly enough, we are told, preparing their nets and traps for the next year's work, securing and cutting their wood, corning the stock, enjoying the pleasures of the family circle and such other intercourse as may be innocent and proper. The C. M. B. A. which we established most firmly there will greatly add to the entertainment we hope.

It was midnight, instead of 8:30 o'clock, p. m. as scheduled, when after much waiting and watching, we heard the whistle of the St. Olaf under Amherst cliffs and our adieux gratefully made, hastened to board her for home. We had driven up through the country of the Boudreauxs, a country which has given to two such estimable clergymen as the late Rev. Nazaire Boudreau, of Miscouche, and the Rev. Stanislaus Boudreau, now of Egmont Bay and every inch of it was thus rendered dear to us. A last adieu to their home then, and down at the little raceway which serves as a landing place for boats, a handshake with Customs Officer Cynus, in command, still on duty, and we are afloat with a boatload of other passengers on the swelling waves of the harbor now shimmering in the bright moonlight. Certainly no more delightful night could be chosen, and, disappointed though we were at the delay of the steamer which would prevent us from making our proposed railway connections at Souris, we stood on the bridge of the old coaster for hours watching the outlines of the hospitable islands fade away and expressing over and over again to the travellers who now rejoin us, the great pleasure and benefit our weeks sojourn had afforded us. All were equally loud in their praises of the place, and we feel sure will return again and again with renewed satisfaction. As for ourselves we shall henceforth maintain a lively interest in the Magdalen, their noble priests and generous people, and always consider it a pleasant duty to do anything in our power to promote the projects they have most at heart. With this purpose in view those hurriedly written and necessarily imperfect sketches, now brought to a close, have been cheerfully undertaken. A. E. BURKE.

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