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SIX MONTHS IN CANADA

BY

GERTRUDE NICHOLSON

THE PART DEALING WITH THE
ROCKWOOD VISIT JULY 13, 1896 -
AUGUST 14, 1896. EXTRACTED
FROM VOLUME 1 and VOLUME 2.

Monday July 13 Busy packing most of the morning. The lilies we got on Saturday have come, out & are a perfect picture. The white ones are the largest I think. I have ever seen. Uncle went out & got an express man to come to take our box to the station. We set off for the station about 3 o'clock after a cup of tea which Uncle always liked to have after dinner. Connie & Stanley came to the station to see us off & presented us with a parcel of bananas to refresh us by the way. Stanley was very disappointed because people are not allowed to go down on the platform to see their friends off.

Expenses for Monday We had a most comfortable journey & came to a station

Street-Car 5	with very rocky scenery all round & I said I am sure
Tickets 2.50	
Sweets 5	this must be Rockwood & just then the conductor shouted

"Rockwood" so out we bundled. Our cousin W.-Barris met us with a horse & conveyance. It is pretty here. The house is nicely situated high up above the river which flows through a rocky ravine. The Harris mill is down below & there is a kind of mill dam above it. J.R. Harris (Will's father) lives close to the mill. This house is a nice airy one with large rooms & we have got into comfortable quarters here. After tea we went a walk down the valley to the mill & met Charlie Harris on the way. It was a lovely evening. The grass is fearfully brown up here & is full of swarms of grasshoppers, they jump up in clouds when you walk over the ground.

Thursday July 14 We breakfast here about 6.15 because Will has to be at the mill at 7. Today is the Sunday School picnic. All the schools here have joined and are going to Guelph. We went by train & some drove in conveyances. When we got to Guelph we took the street cars up to the Agricultural College. It is a fine place & the grounds all round are beautifully kept. We feel very lazy as it was very hot but we forced ourselves to go round and see everything there was

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We went over the greenhon,

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under the trees on the grass. It tasted very good. Edith brought some lemon juice in a bottle and we had a lot of fine lemonade. Vie went all over the College & saw the room where Fred slept when he was there. Guelph College is a government institution & is well kept up. After dinner we had a look over the dairy & poultry house. The poultry is splendid, I enjoyed that part best of all. Charlie & Richie Harris were there & were with us most of the time. They are both, very quiet and don't talk much. The former is about 30 I think & the latter about 15. C. Harris I drove a lot of the 3.3. Scholars over in their democrat. We took street cars back to Guelph about 4 o'clock. When we got there we went about the town a bit. Edgar got his hair cut & Edith did a little shopping. Guelph is quite an English looking place but of gray stone & it is a very hilly town with lots of trees about; it rather reminded us of Barnard Castle. We hope to go again while we are here. Vie got home about 7 o'clock & were met at the station by Cousin Will. He took us a very pretty walk home through the woods. After tea we had a nice time looking at photos, etc.

Wednesday July 15 We were asleep this morning at breakfast time so Edith

did not wake us & we did not get up till eight o'clock.

Expenses for Tues. Edgar did not appear till about 10 as he was up late last

Tram 10 night. There was a very heavy shower of rain this morning
Peanuts 5

which will do a great deal of good. We did our washing

this morning. Edith has such a nice big airy kitchen {-washhouse and lots of beautiful soft water. Maud spent the morning picking red currants. They have a great many here also black & red rasps. & gooseberries. She quite enjoys picking fruit. It has been a most lovely day with a nice breeze. When we were at Guelph the ground all over by the gates & road was swarming with a caterpillar they call the "Army Worm". It goes in tremendous swarms from place to place & lives chiefly on grain especially oats & utterly ruins the crops in many places.

Thursday July 16th We were all very busy ironing most of the day. Edith

borrowed some of her mother-in-law*s irons & we ironed two at a time. I can tell you we did some work & fortunately it was a nice cool day. I ought to have mentioned that yesterday evening we went to the Friends week day meeting about a mile from here & a very pretty walk. . The Meeting-House is a little shanty quite nice & comfortable inside but very insignificant externally.. The grass all round it is quite brown & eaten off by grasshoppers, there are no trees, the meeting-house stands quite alone except for a very rickety old shed close to for people to tie up their horses in. There were about a dozen people there, 6 or 7 of them being Harris's. Mary Ann Mingie a quaint little old woman, (whom we used to know well) was there & spoke & prayed in a very figh squeaky voice. She has very sore eyes & squints terribly & wears a very short dress. She is very poor (her husband having been in the asylum many years & she is so blind she can't see to do anything for a living.) The Harris's are very kind & help her a good deal. We had 2 hymns sung which Edith started & one or ^{two} ⁱ tow others spoke. It was preparative meeting after. The clerk is an elderly friend in a regular old fashioned friends bonnet. She unfastened her minute book from the paper &. all the business she had to do was to write a minute of adjournment tildl hexE meeting. Rockwood beongs ^t to Pelham Monthly meeting & Pelham [!] is 70 miles away so the friends here never go when M.M. is a£ Pelham. Poor things, they seem very benighted. Edith introduced us all round after meeting/ John Richard Harris & his wife are away on a driving trip to see some of their relatives at Pelham, Norwich & Hawtrey and are expected home tomorrow. We had a very nice walk home j through the village L then along a winding road with rocks high up on one side and the I mill dam on the other.

Friday July 17th Yesterday evening Cousin Will took me on a long drive 8 or 9 miles. It was quite cold & we could hardly keep warm. The roads here are very stony & you can go along at a fine pace. We saw a lot of fine prosperous looking farms. Today it is getting quite hot again so you never know what it will be next. We have been picking white currants, & gooseberries all the morning & feel quite useful. A little while before dinner Mary Ann Mingle turned up. She generally comes twice a week either here or to see Mrs. John Richard Harris & has a good dinner & gets something to take home. She is the most comical object I ever saw & she laughed once quite hysterically in dinner & set us all off too. To look at her is enough. When her pie was handed her she put it close-up to her eyes & squinted most horribly right into it. Edgar does not like her & says he would not shave her around the place. She says she remembers our father well, also Uncle Howard with whom she stayed 3 days once. Her native place is Brighouse & she came out to Canada when she was 29. He is now 67. She was a member of Brighouse meeting. Cousin Will took Maud & Edgar a ride to Guelph after dinner it is 25 miles. Edgar was very excited at the prospect. He was teasing us rather this morning so I got a stick of his and laid it on pretty hard. He called me all sorts of names but behaved much better after & in fact was quite affectionate. He says he likes Maud & me because we can fight. When Maud told Edith that Edgar had been chastised she seemed real pleased. I think she likes other people to do it because she is saved the exertion herself. Edgar is rather a tiresome boy & yet in some ways you can't help liking him he is full of fun & can appreciate a joke & is a terrible boy to laugh. He gets quite helpless sometimes when something amuses him. I had a most delicious quiet afternoon mending, letter-writing & reading some of "Mary Barton" by Mrs. Gaskell, & had a most interesting fire at 6 o'clock.

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tea with Mary Ann who gave us a full account of a lecture on Rome by a Mr. Harvey. She said he told them there is quite a city on St. Peter's Church all sorts of shop^ and work going on & St. Peters was 163 steps to the top but that was only half way up L how the Catholics prayed to wooden dolls which were supposed to heal their diseases. We were all trying not to laugh but first one & then another would give a splutter. At last she said he had told them St. Peters Church was > miles long. That was the climax & we had to run out of the room. I was in such fits & Cousin Will followed suit while Edith & Maud made vain attempts to keep up the conversation with Mary Ann as though nothing had happened. Will handed her some butter on a little dish, she almost put her nose in it, in her efforts to put it close enough to see what it was. Directly after tea she departed bearing her spoil with her. I did wish I had had a camera so as to have got a picture, she looked such a quaint specimen. Edgar & Maud went to see the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Guelph. There is a convent there too. 'Maud drove nearly all the way home & Edgar most of the way there. After tea I went with Will to hunt the cow but luckily some one else found it before we had gone far & shouted us back. Then we went a walk in the woods to a place where there are very high perpendicular rocks on each side. We got some birch bark & some very pretty ferns of which there are a great quantity. When we came back Maud & I played Hide & Seek in the garden. He seemed to think it a tremendous treat to have some one to play with. Then Edgar went to bed about 9 L we had some music & talk about old times till 11.

Saturday July 18th v Maud finished off a letter to Agnes Leicester & I took one with it for Uncle Fred to post with Maud & Edgar. The latter had to buy some bird seed|. It is such a pretty walk to the village from here. No one seemed to be about in the village except two or three lounging about the Post Office. Soon

after getting outside Edgar dropped his box of bird seed at which he said "The old' coon he never even put a paper round it". On the road about half way there are some caves in the rock. They say they go a long way back but are difficult to get into because the entrance is so very low. At the mill Edgar went in to give his father some letters he had got & we said-we would walk on & he must catch up We hid behind some trees & presently he came racing along as hard as he could run & ran all the way home. After awhile we walked leisurely up & asked him where he had been all the time. He said he had thought we must be hiding which we did not at all believe. This afternoon he has been consigned to the bedroom till tea time for some misdemeanor. I heard him shouting out to his mother to know if he might have a picture book upstairs & she said "Yes" so I don't thin^the punishment is very severe. We two have been picking black & red rasps, for tea to be eaten with rich-cream. After tea we all went out on^ the river in the boat. It is a

big flat bottomed boat square at both ends & very

Expenses for Friday

Shoe mended	5
Chloroform for	
butterflies	25
Hatpins	5'Y.

safe looking. I rowed going & Maud returning. There is

a large open dam a little below here L about a mile

*

Harris' dam. It is very good rowing when you get to Lt

te-itdbut all the way from the boat house there you

have to steer carefully between stumps & logs. There

are quite a few islands on the way and sheep rocky cliffs. The sky was a beautiful red with the sunset & the water so still it just looked like glass. It is thought this must once have been a very large swift river because there are so many potholes worn out, some of them very large.. Edgar gave me a pretty bunch of golden rod & willow herb on one of the. Islands. We had a most enjoyable row & after getting home we shelled a large dish of peas for Sunday dinner.

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Sunday July-19th It was dull this morning & rather close. We all got well warmed up going to meeting. Edgar went into his grandfather's house on the way to see if he could get a ride in their buggy & he succeeded. J.R. Harris & his wife came home last night from Uncle Charles'. They have a little girl namd Alice Pennington, . granddaughter of Chas^Ti^fry living with them & thjfeey took her down there to ■ stay for her holidays. Maud & I were in J.R. Harris' class. The women & men sit facing each other rather close together. Mary Ann Mingle was in our class & showed great intelligence. Edith has a class of big girls. Will has big boys.]\$r Harris has the small children. Edgar is in hers. After the lesson was over Will gave a short sketch of it on the blackboard questioning the children. Then we had meeting. I should think there were about 20 there. J.R. Harris & 2 or 3 others spoke, Mrs. Harris prayed & there were 2 Or 3 hymns. Altogether I thought it was a very nice meeting. We walked home & had a good feed of green peas & we are now all sitting out on the Verandah while I write this. Maud is writing a letter & Edith & Will reading. John Richard Harris & his wife came to tea & we like Mrs. Harris very much/ They stayed 2 nights at Uncle Charles Treffry's & seem to have had a good time though the ride home was very dusty. They say the crops round Norwich are very good esp-ecially South Norwich. We spent the evening looking at photos & Maud sang a bit. Theyd went off about 10 o'clock.

Monday July 20th We spent a real lazy day on the verandah doing fancy work & ; reading. There was rain mosf of the night & this morning it was very heavy. They say it will put an end to most of the grasshoppers & the grass is already reviving a little with it. There are some apples nearly ripe. I ate one today which was just delicious. . They are so juicy & have such a lot of flavor. We got a letter from father & also one from Connie. After tea we all had a game of hide & seek by moom-ighfuar -a -.> "JI

Will is a good runner being very light & it was most exciting.
Edith only played a very short time at the end. We all got fear-
fully heated & Edgar kept saying "Isn't this fun"? "T7; an I" "CTflrs-
" I call this fine fun"!

Tuesday July 21st Directly after breakfast Edgar and I went
to the post-office to post a letter for Edith to Beaconsfield. On
the way back we called at J.R. Harris^r for the key of the boat-house.
Mrs. Harris took me around her garden * I got a basketful of nice
looking lettuces for us to take back to Edith & gave me a buttonhole of
very fine pansies. Edgar & I took quite a row in the boat & amused ourselves by
towing fallen trees out of the road where the boat generally goes. Edgar
fastened a chain round & then I would row with might & main. We
quite improved the place & made quite a clear way through to the
lower dam,!. We had the dog in the boat & he behaved splendidly.
It was hot work rowing and I frequently had to stop to mop myself.
We rowed into a cave & let the ^{bo}at lie, it was deliciously cool inside
& the water so clear. I got a letter for Maud at the mill from Miss
Grimshaw. Maud began to wonder when she was going to get it
because Cousin Will was up about 10 o'clock I told her he had
given me a letter & we never came back till nearly dinner time.
We got a very handsome blue flower on one of the islands. I
don't know what it was called. In the afternoon after all the work
was done Edith took us a walk to the "Pinnacle" a very high pillar
of rock. You can get on top of it sometimes with the help of a ladder
Will is going to take us some day. Then we went to see the mill which
is not working at present owing to repairs. We got quite a lesson in

cloth weaving but are going again some day when the mill is working for another more complete lesson. I am sure Will ought to have been a teacher he is so fond of explaining things. After tea we stayed out.t in the garden till 10 o'clock talking. The evenings are lovely, so cool L at present bright moonlight. During the evening I had a fight with Edgar with the little half grown apples which have fallen off the trees. He got the advantage because he had a pail which he kept filling and carfied it round with him for ammunition.

Wednesday July 22nd. A dull very close morning I sat in the garden & took a sketch of the house. Edgar sat watching me most of the morning L asking all aborts of queer questions!. After dinner Maud picked rasps. & made some apple sauce. Edith went to the village to do some shopping & call on a friend of hers. ~~Then we irerrrb-~~"to Then we went to Friends Meeting in the evening. It suddenly came Ln quite cold with a very strong wind L we wished we had something warmer on than cotton blouses. I walked home most of the way with John Richard Harris , then a little way behind us was Will, Edith & Maud. L at a respectful distance behind them the two Harris boys,walked in silence. We sat out on the verandah quite a while after getting home L then had some music.

Thursday July 23rd. We were all busy most of the day making grand preparations for the company. Marion is coming to morrow &. Herb, E Emma & the baby on Saturday to spend Sunday so Edith will have quite a house full. Maud made some apple pies, Edith made a sandwich cake & a lot of queen cakes & I did the ironing. It was

It was such a cool day we all felt energetic. Maud made a large apple pie for dinner and it was all cleaned up. Mill & Edgar seemed to appreciate it. After tea Will took us two out in the boat. It was a lovely evening. We saw ^{two} minks ^L also to ^{Evvo} cranes. One of the minks was a very large one. We landed on the opposite shore & went quite a way through the woods & into a sort of amphitheatre place with steep cliffs all round. On the way back we went up by the waterfall by the mill, but could not get right up because we grounded L Will had such a time to get us loose again. When we got home he said he felt hungry so Edith got us some of her queen cakes before going to bed.

Friday July 24th

We had quite a busy morning because we were all going to Guelph in the afternoon to

<u>Expenses</u>	
Caustic	15
Silk	10
W. paper	10
Braid	4
Sweets	10

meet Marion. We had an early dinner & then Will brought the 2 horses round & off we went. It is quite a pretty drive and we arrived just at train time. Marion came all right & then

we did some shopping in town & then drove home a longer way round; it was a nice cool day & the dust was not bad so we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Maud & Will had a quarrel about which horse pulled best & Maud stuck up for Martha & Will for Fan. I think Martha did the best all round. She is a bay & has a nice glossy coat & Fan is a dark sorrel & nothing much to look at. Maud held them while the others were shopping when an electric tram car came along & frightened them and they began to back & jump so Maud shouted out to a man who was going past to know if he would hold them & he was delighted to do so & stayed till Will came back much to Maud's relief. I went & got some buttons put on my shoes for which they did not charge

me anything. The shoes were well studied & the man remarked on Naud's being English when she sent hers to be mended. They say they can tell because they are heavier than American shoes - never are. When we got back we had tea & then sat round & had music etc. till 10 o'clock.

Saturday July 25th Maud, Edgar & Marion went to call on Mrs. & Harris to post some letters directly after breakfast. I sent one to Aunt Julia as tomorrow is her birthday. Louisa & Jessie are at Pelham for a month & Petehe1 is spending his holidays working for Fred at 5 cents a day. He says he is making quite a fortune at it. Connie is going to stay at Uncle Thomas' first when she goes to Norwich & then at Uncle Charles'. They are going to have Aunt Ettie & Alice staying with them for a while, while Uncle Sam & Mabel go to Toronto to get a house of some sort & look out for work. Mrs. Harris gave the girls a lovely bunch of flowers to bring back. She always gives us something when we go in there. Yesterday Richie their youngest son brought "The Haydock's Testimony" for us to read. He seems a kind, good natured boy but a trifle slow & peculiar. He is very long-suffering with Edgar, I am sure. I spent most of the morning making Edith two large kitchen aprons. About 5 o'clock we packed up a basket of provisions & went down to the boat house. Edith sat down on a log to wait for her beloved husband while we 3 put the boat out & went a little way round till he came. Then we all started off quite a boat load for the further end of the lower mill pond. We went to a place where it was well wooded with cedars & landed tying up our boat. Then we walked along a little path till we came to a big open place with high cliffs all round like an

amphitheatre L an opening at one end. There were such lots of ferns
 growing on the rocks all round. Vie all sat down on logs & ate
 our tea. They always drink water for dinner & tea here. It **is a very common
 custom here to drink water, sometimes for every meal. Maud/* I always have
 milk at tea-time (real rich new milk) Edith says we might as well have it**
 as she often has to throw some out. None of them like milk to drink
 at- a 111 Vie climbed up a little gully in the rocks after tea &
 explored a lot & then went back to the boat & rowed about & landed
 on a very pretty island which was high & rocky. Vie climbed to
 the top and found some pretty red berries which are called
 bear berries. Herwere just by a little cave sometime later &
 Cousin Will, Maud & Marion were all at one end when^{Ct} gave a dip
 down & the water came all over Maud & made her very wet. He declared
 it was her weight that did it because whe is heavier than any of us.
 Will only weights about A stone, 8 or 9- he is awfully thin & skinny
 Vie say it is because he has to climb the hill up to his house so
 often that keeps him thin. We got^f home about 9 o'clock having
 had a most delightful row. I rowed nearly all the way, neither Edith
 nor Marion know how to. The former says there is no need for **her**to
 learn because there are alwas plenty of men to do it for her. I
 cannot understand anyone being often in a boat & not wanting to
 learn how.

waAV;in<j|

Sunday duly 26th It was rather hot waling to meeting this morning
 but when we got there we soon got cool as all the windows were open
 and a beautiful breeze was blowing through. John Richard Harris had
 about a dozen in his class. Mary Ann MingeY was in a most lively
 state and answered every question, she is quite a pc lever old body.
 She was a servant in a Friend's family in Brighthouse for a long time.
 J^aud sang a solo in the meeting some of us joining in the chorus. Vie
 can't hardly help laughing sometimes at the shrill singing here.

The main object seems to be to make as much noise as possible. They sing quite a lot of hymns to quite different tunes from what are in the book & here at Rockwood they sing very slowly & drawl the hymns out fearfully. It quite puts me in the fidgets. After meeting we were introduced to Wesley Harris & his brother. They are regular young farmers in looks. Wesley said he guessed Maud would remember her visit here better than he did. They tea^e him rather about hitting her with a chain, once when she was here with father, mother Aunt; Maria & Aunt Lizzie. We are going to tea to Rebecca[^]Smith on Tuesday. She is an old maid who wears a friends bonnet & is a cousin[^] of Harris. Edith invited Charlie Harris up to dinner. It required some persuasion on her parch. to get him to come, Edith wanted Maud & Marion to go & sit oh the verandah and talk to him while she got dinner & they were just going out to do so Marion leading the way when Maud ran slyly back L so Marion was left to perform the arduous duty alone but she did not seem, to mind much & though she did most of the conversation she got quite a few remarks out of him. We sat talking & looking at photos till about 4.30 & then we all went down to J.R. Harris to tea. When we got tbe^their drive house we saw a man putting his 2 horses in evidently quite at home. Charlie Harris thought he was pretty cheeky. He said ''When Will came he would see about it b^ut we watched & saw him shake hands very cordially with a stout old fellow in a soft felt hat, and after a while thy came into the house. The man⁷ s name is Mr. Hill, his wife was there too. She is a very nice looking ladylike little woman. Mr. Hill has abrother who is a millionaire yAMr-S ewe H/Zc • & he sent this Mr. Hill a lot of money so he woAld not have to work very hard for a living. Mr. Hill is a most amusing man, and a real wit he kept everyone laughing most of tea time . He was a schoolmaster

for 20 years at Rockwood, and taught Cousin Will. He used to sit on a chair back in school and talk to his class & he used to have a whip with a wooden handle which he would shie at their heads. He is fearfully down on the present style of education here especially the way they teach writing. We :>had quite a time looking at photos etc, after tea & then just before the Hills went we sang some hymns. They had 12 :miles to drive & they left about 9.30?JnBlit they had 2 splendid horses, quite young ones so they would not take, long to get home.

Monday July 27 A very close warm morning or as Edith calls it "A sticky morning". Wer were all rather late getting up having gone to to bed rather late. Cousin Will went out to milk the cow about 10 o'clock & had nearly finished when she kicked him & the pail clean over much to his surprise. Afternoon Maud & Marion walked down to John Richard Harris' to get a moth that Richie had caught. It is a very fine large one & we put it under a glass L administered chloroform which soon put an end to its short life. After tea we all seemed very sleepy & disinclined for any exertion so we sat on the verandah Edgar & I in the hammock & the rest in. easy chairs.

Tuesday July 23th This is a very hot sultry day. About 35 in the back verandah which is the most shaded place anywhere about the i-A0iA'sE. hyAse. But now it is thundering & a nice breeze has sprung up which is most refreshing. About 4 o'clock we women tididd ourselves & went to take tea with an old maid named Rebecca Smith. She is a cousin of the Harris' and has lived in Rockwood all her life she is now about 60. She lives in a small wooden house a little out of the village with a veyv old fashioned garden in front full of hollyhocks

& petunias. She has another old maid living with her named Mary Balls (William Wet herald's sister-in-law) The latter is very peculiar & a little off sometimes. But Are was away yesterday which was rather a pity as it was her Edith wanted us specially to see, she is such a curiosity. They keep a lot of cats which are very shy & terrified if a man comes to the house. Will said he thought it was a pity Edith was going because then it would have been an old maid's tea party. Not very complimentary to Marion who is just turned 20. He said we must be careful or some of the cats would be springing at us & sure enough one did at Edith's shoulder. She gave a jump & the cat fled hissing at her as it went out. It must have discovered she was not an old maid. We had tea without any milk because they never use milk at that house. After tea we walk^{ed} round the garden. They have a crab tree which is breaking down with the weight of the fruit on it & the apple trees are about as bad. There seems to be a good crop of apples everywhere this year. We have harvest apples every day now. ,ayd got a very curious caterpillar at Miss Smith's & she is going to keep it & see if it will come out as a butterfly. She carried it all the way home in a piece of paper. Will made a most disgusted face when he saw it. He & Edgar had tea at his fathers. Alice Treffry arrived n «n W there this evening. She is a teacher in Norwich Public School & is now having her holidays. When we got here we found a letter & some photos from Connie. She has not passed her exam for promotion so will not be going to Pickering next terms. She is going to stay at Uncle Thomas? on the 5th of August for 10 days or so. When we got up here we found the lamps lit but the house deserted & no one about. Will & Edgar were hiding round the garden but as no one took

the trouble to hunt them up they had to come in in the end. It has been about none of the hottest,;if not the hottest day we have had since we came I should think.

Wednesday-July-29th Spent quiet day ', \AJ e

go out in the afternoon because a very heavy thunderstorm came on & it rained in torrents. It will do such a lot of good to the grass which was very brown. I have just finished our weekly letter home. We were afraid we should not be able to go to meeting but it stopped raining & was rather misty all the evening & very close in meeting, but-it_stopped raining^~a^~rather-in^st7^all"The-^e?[±rrg & very close Alice I ref fry was at meeting.

Thursday July 30th This morning Maud & I went down to the mill to get the boat key & found Cousin Will weighing wool in the wool house & he wanted us to get on the machine. Maud wouldAt but after we left we passed the other wool house where there is another machine, & she & I both tried our weights Cousin Will is going up rapidly & had gained about 3 pounds since we came here. He is cjuit . alarmed. When we got the key of the boat (for which we had to go to the grist mill") Then we went out in the boat & got a place where there is a good view of a very high rock called "The Pinnacle" & I sat at the other end of the boat & read a book. We had a most enjoyable morning & wished Marion could have gone with us but Edith wanted her at home to help her. After dinner I ironed some blouses & prinV dresses & we each! had a cold bath. Edith & Marion retired to E^Td bed & both had a good sleep and came down looking much refreshed. We all went down and had a nice row in the boat till it was dark.

We some of us got pretty wet with splashing each other with water. Cousin Will wanted to get us right up to the waterfall by the mill so as Edgar is afraid of going ' putuhim out & then we went nearly to the fall but got stuck on a stone. L kept turning round & round with the current & Will made frantic efforts to get the boat loose and we were there about half an hour & Marion, Maud & I were quxbfMdizzy with it.

Friday July 31st We spent another most enjoyable morning in which I finished my sketch from the boat while Maud mended stockings. Then we went a nice row all round the lower mill pond. Then we went to the office & had quite a talk with John R. Harris L then came up here, to dinner with Will.

END VOLUME 11

SIX MONTHS IN CANADA VOLUME II

August 1. Saturday. Yesterday afternoon Edgar and his uncle Richard were very busy putting up a tent of some old sacking and then they made a shop and sold sweets, apples, gooseberries, etc* We womenfolk were customers and Edgar had the dog hitched into a cart and delivered the parcels at our houses, We noticed that they did not seem very anxious to sell the sweets and ate a good many between whiles, Edgar has a great idea of being a shop-keeper and is most businesslike. After tea we all went a walk to a place called the ''Devil's Well." It is like a deep pot-hole; there are several of them round there and geologists think some great river has run through here and that these are some of the pot-holes along the banks, because on digging down in the bottom of these holes they have found quite a number of smooth round stones such as are found in pot-holes. I should think this would be a splendid district for a geologist; there are so many rocks and some of such peculiar formations. Cousin Will took an axe and cleared the path as we went through the woods; the cedars grow so fast they have to be constantly doing it to keep anything like a path. We sat on the verandah quite a long time after we got home till it got too cold talking. This morning we were up pretty early and it really felt quite cold and chilly after the hot days we have had. Very soon after breakfast All of us except Edith set off for the Friends meetinghouse, I taking my painting materials, . We sent Edgar in to ask his grandmother for the meetinghouse key. She said, "Why you're not going to have a Quarterly feting, are you?" Edgar told her what we wanted it for and she said, "Oh you might have waited till we got a new one." I soon set to work when I got there and did the picture on the proceeding page. Earion and Maud got some of the books out of the S.S. Library and sat reading quite a while. Then they went to the village and then home, When I had finished my work which took about two hours Edgar and I came about half way home and found a nice place on the hillside on some rocks and there we sat and ate our dinner out of a basket Edith had packed us up

a lot, of* nice things. Then we went down J.K. Harris* and left some of our things. Mrs. Harris and Alice Treffry were much interested in seeing my sketches and Mrs. Harris said she had often wanted to sketch the meetinghouse but did not think she could manage it. I believe it is about sixty years old. Then I went and sat on a hillside up the road and began to do the mill. It was a most interesting place to sit because you can hear all that goes on and see everybody about the mill. There is a splendid echo there and Men Edgar was shouting at the dog you could hear a fine echo. Richard and Edgar played horses round there till the former got tired Of it and came and sat down and watched me painting. It began to rain after a while so we had to pack up. I got an umbrella at Mrs. Harris* and came horns. priori and ^aud had gons to the village again on an errand. I am writing this at my open bedroom window and a nice gentle rain is falling outside. Maud got a very interesting letter from Eric this morning. It rained most of the evening so we did not go out at alx.

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Sunday August 2. Au usual we went to school at 10 o'clock. At thenend of school a collect inn was taken for missionaries. I was waiting to see a plate handed round but they only passed an envelope. I had my money in my watch pocket and could not get it out for quite a while and kept the envelope waiting, ever so long much to the amusement of C.E. Harris. They we also much Entertained because their father found a great deal of difficulty in pronouncing,

"Mapshibosheth". After dinner we all to various places to rest. I went to the hammock & Maud to bed. Edgar would come and pinch me, so X pinched him back at which he told his mother. Then he got a big stick and rushed at me but I caught it so he kicked nry shins as hard as he could at which I used the stick on him very freely. He roared, then went away & I saw him no more for the res^ of the afternoon. I fancy Cousin Will despatched him to bed to get a sleep. In the evening Alice Treffry came up to tea. The former was quite lovely & much interested in our photos and sketches. After tea we sat on the verandah [until.it](#) got too cold & then came' in & had some music Lc.-

Monday August 3rd. I set off soon after breakfast to sketch. Borrowed a sketching cushion from Mrs. Harris made of twisted grass to sit on, the rocks are so hard, . I finished my sketch o? the mill on the preceding page & then we went down to the mill & Will 'showed us over. About half the looms were at work, but there is very little going on just now. He is going to light up with electric light some evening for us to see. We saw how they wash the cloth in soapy water after it is made. They have great big vats for the purpose. Sometimes Will Has a cold' bath in one on a hot'day. He had Edgar in one day. We are expecting 2 young ladies, the Misses Black to tea this evening.

The Blacks came about 4 o'clock & we all sat round the drawing room in state and tried to keep up conversation till about 6.30 when we had tea. It was a rather difficult job because being a hot afternoon we all felt very sleepy. After tea we went down to the boat where Charlie Harris had, all ready & then the two men folk:, rowed us to the Pinnacle. Then we landed and went to the top. They had a short ladder to help us one place. It is a very steep place to get up & you don't want to look down at the water or you will soon get dizzy. Coming down is much worse than going up because you have to screw your leg round to get it on the ladder. Maud & Miss Black were down first & sat in the boat laughing and jeering at the rest of us & making personal remarks at us. Then when we were nearly down Miss Mary Black sat down quite nervous and said she did not think she could go any further but Cousin Will after a little persuasion got her along. We had a row after that, all round the lower pond & it was most enjoyable. The Blacks seem nice girls. Their father has a very large farm about 3 miles from here. The oldest one is very pale and delicate looking, she is about 29 & is engaged to a Methodist minister. The other is about 23 & is rather excitable. She was quite amused in tea because Maud asked her 'if she was the oldest of the two. They drove here in a nice buggy with a very good horse. We sat on the verandah till Will got their horse for them & then they said "good-bye" after inviting us over to see them and drove off in the dark.

Tuesday Aug. 4th I went off with Edgar to find a suitable place to sketch the Cave. Edgar took Frisk the dog with a blanket tied on to its back for me to sit on while sketching. We found a good place in a thick cedar wood & I had to sit in the sun & there was not a bit of breeze so I got pretty hot & well -sunburnt. At dinner time I

Had not half finished so I sent Edgar home to say I was going to stay on. About one o'clock Cousin Will & Maud turned up with a basket of provisions, Maud brought a book and said she was going to stay but the heat soon drove her home. I finished & got home about three o'clock had a cold bath, tied myself & then about 5 we went to see an old man, - § x^ named Wood, who lives near the mill, to look at his etchings. He comes \$ from Cheshire & seemed very pleased to show us his works of art. Some of them are beautifully done. 'He saw at once Marion did not care for pictures, she looked at them so quickly, He could not' make out how she was Edith's sister & thought Maud was most like her (Edith) He is a great talker and we had quite a job getting away. His wife is js a little hunched backed woman. Edith says she was after him in England & then when he came out here she followed him & he had to marry her. Their son & daughter both work in the mill. The old woman wanted us to come to tea but Edith got out of it somehow. He showed us a lot of old Indian relics, such as tomahawk heads, arrow heads, solving knives made of flint most of them. Then we went over to Mr. Harris' to tea, t^ i k x n g x k i a x M x x x R x x a k S ' i d k x x S n g i a H ^ x s k K X and spent the evening talking to Mr. H, about England, etc. After we left there it came on very bright lightning a long way off & quite lit up the sky & thundered a little. I lay in bed a long time watching the lightning which every now & then would make the room quite light. There was a shower of rain & a very strong wind so Edith had to get up & go round shutting all the windows. It was a very hot close night. so I don't think any of us slept very sound.

Wednesday Aug. 5th Edgar is quif^ poorly all day 6- has been lying on the sofa asleep most of the morning. We went a walk through a lot of woods & up the side of a very pretty gully with a stream at the bottom this morning. Alice Treffry acted as guide & we had a lovely walk. There were such lots of very pretty ferns growing among the rocks most lovely mosses, A. Treffry had a pair of very strong boots on & looked like business. Just as we were coming down the hill behind Harris' house we heard a thundering noise & turned around in alarm to see what was coming. It was their dog with the cow after it, X gave quite a scream, I thought, the cow was making for us but it went past. A. Treffry was quite amused at us being afraid of a cow. After dinner Marion & Maud went to the station, the former has gone to stay with a schoolfellow somewhere beyond Guelph. Edith and I set off for a meeting of the missionary band, at Vestal's house. It was fearfully hot but when we got to the mill there was Charlie Harris with the horses in the democrat waiting to take his mother & so we got a ride too which was ' a great relief to us. The Vestals are quite poor people and Edith said they had cleaned the room up extra well because they thought she would be bringing all of us. The mother and daughter both very delicate and decrepit looking are friends. The father is sometimes quite off the edge for a while & then he takes journeys around the country on tramp. He was up at Norwich not long since. The Friends Missionary Society entirely by the women friends. They have bands in a great number of the Preparative Meetings which are which are called "Auxiliaries" which have monthly meetings. The Missionary Society support a missionary in Japan named "Gurney Binford". They are now going to send out a lot of parcels with Xmas gifts, little small things such as bright coloured lead pencils & pieces of ribbon, or cards, etc. When we arrived at the Vestals Mrs. V. said to Edith "Why you have only brought one out of three of them" she seemed quite disappointed. Mary Ann Mingle, Rebecca Smith, & Mrs. Harris were the only others there. But it was a nice little meeting, we read some missionary letters & went through a moral Bible lesson which they have in their missionary paper which is called "The Missionary Advocate". It was really quite touching, to see poor Mrs. Vestal

hunting up all the pretty little Xmas books she had to send them to Japan & they must have been all she had to give, Edith and I walked home as Edith had to go to the store for something. We were in a most melting condition when we arrived at the top of this hill, ' Maud & I went to Meeting in the evening with Cousin Will. Edith stayed at home with Edgar. We had a very short meeting because every one was so overcome with the heat. Maud started the hymns.

----- Thursday Aug. 6th.

Expenses	After dinner Maud & I went down to the office
Collection for	got' the boat key & went out in the boat way up
Japan 10c.	the water to one of the Islands where I got out

6- took a sketch of Maud sitting in the boat, though
. I am afraid it is not much like her. It was very
hot and we had the sun beating down on us. After a good while Maud rowed
back to the landing place 6- got Cousin Will, Edith & Edgar. Edith
brought two baskets with a good supply of food L- some milk & lemonade
for our tea. We camped out on some logs and enjoyed our tea imm-
ensely but had to come home very soon after because it began to
thunder & got very dark. However no rain came in the end &
sat out on the verandah till 10 o'clock L went to bed about 11.
It was a very hot night & I kept waking up several times feeling just
like a furnace.

Friday August 7th Spent the morning sketching the back view of the house. I have a front view in the other book but I thought I would like a back one as well, ' I had a nice comfortable seat with two chairs in a shady place. The last 3 days the thermomemter has been at 90 degrees in the shade of the back verandah & one day ft went up to 92_s in the very middle of the day. We had a ''thorough cleaning''; this afternoon washing our heads 6- having cold baths & now I am sitting in the hammock writing. Edith is mending stockings in the window, and Maud is dozing. We went quite a long walk in the evening. We came to a place where a lot of boys were bathing L Cousin Will went on a bit ahead to warn them some ladies were coming. He said one fellow got out and began trying to get into his clothes with frantic efforts. He told him he need not do that as long as he kept under water. It was most amusing when we walked past trying to look solemn they would keep making remarks to each other such as ''Here they come'' Keep down can't you'' Get under the bridge'', etc. On the way back we were walking along through some rather thick cedar woods when a voice suddenly shouted out ''Good-night girls.'' No one was in sight and we could not tell who it came from. We called in at J.R. Harris' on the way home. He had just returned from Toronto where he had been for the day L brought & brought back .some books for their 'Sunday School library.

Saturday August 8th Much cooler than it has been. I sat out and finished this view of Edith's house. Maud & Edgar went down to the other house L- Ms.-. Harris gave her a bunch of flowers which were very acceptable because we are rather expecting Bert, Emma, ' Bert, Emma and the baby here for Sunday. Edith has been very busy all the morning baking pies, cakes, etc. she means them to have a good time if they do turn up. Aggie and Stanley Harris KxLdxLhxxxxgZving daughter & son of Thomas Harris of Toronto are also going to be here. over Sunday

at Samuel Harris':and Edith is going to ask them up here to dinner

to-morrow so we will be quite a large company. Bert, Emma and the

baby arrived about a quarter to five looking very dusty and tired. They had got up about one o'clock before daylight, .They must have got nearly roasted on the way. The baby slept nearly all the way. After tea:all of us but Edith, Edgar and the baby went a row on the lake till it got too dark. Emma seemed to enjoy it thoroughly. She had not often been in a boat.

Sunday August 9th 92 degrees in the shade of the back verandah . We walked to meeting. Bert drove his wife and baby in his buggy. When:- we got to school we found Alice Treffry sitting on the men's form of the adult class. There are two forms & the women are supposed to sit on the one under the window L the men opposite, so the men usually get all the breeze. She said she thought those who arrived first ought to have the coolest seat& she had no intention of moving. They looked rather astonished when they came in L much amused. The baby was rather badly behaved in meeting so Emma took her out sat outside with her. After a while BeD't followed (I fancy he was feeling rather drowsy L he took Emma a ride round the village & then home. We were about cooked when we arrived home L I never got comfortable again till about 8 pm. h'After dinner Emma went upstairs and had a good sleep, the baby slept in the hammock, Bert on the verandah, Edith on the drawing room sofa and Edgar in the hall. Bert and family went down to J.R. Harris' to tea & after tea Alice Treffry 6- Ed Harris took them to see the Devil's Well. We went a nice walk through the woods opposite this house. Both last night & Saturday night there was bright lightning most of the night L very little thunder. It quite lit up our bedroom & it was impossible to go to sleep almost so I was very sleepy all today. Maud can sleep however hot it is. We were eating astrakan apples most of this afternoon. They are just perfect now I like them far better than early harvests, A large branch of the tree broke off with the weight of the [fruit.lt](#) is a pity because that limb comprises the best part of the tree. We have cleared the harvest apple tree. We all sat on the verandah till about 10.30, It was beautifully cool.' I sat with the baby across my knees rocking her in the hammock L- she soon fell fast; jassleep. She is cutting teeth & has quite a rash all over her. She was very fretful in the night but I don't think disturbed anyone but her mother. Emma said Bert was making too much noise himself to notice her.

Monday August 10th I forgot to say that Bert brought a packet of letters for us. One from father, one from mother, one to Maud from Annie Hughes, one for me from Nellie Brady L very soon after Will brought one up for me from Aunt Julia, She said they were enjoying having Connie so much and liked her very much, Annie Hughes' letter was a real good' one & full 'of Pottery news. Bert & Edgar have just driven off to the village to get'the buggy mendedand then I expect they will start home.

We spent a lazy morning in the boat paddling about. It was too hot to do much in the afternoon. Maud & I took a cold bath & about 5 o'clock went to the village & then on to the train to see if Marion came but she did not turn up after all. There was a lot of thunder after tea & lightning * quite a heavy fall of rain. We hoped it would make it cooler but it has not had much effect.

Tuesday Aug. 11th Ok I have nothing to record today except that I perspired freely over doing a little washing in the morning & wrote letters all the afternoon. Charlie Harris was in Guelph this morning & he met Marion who said she was coming by the 6 o'clock train to-night. Cousin Will came over about 5 o'clock to say that their neighbour's cow, which is a pretty old one had fallen over a rock & hurt itself badly & they were going to shoot her. About 6 o'clock he came driving up with the Democrat & a pair of horses & we ate our tea as fast as we could. Q)/ Then Edith packed up some refreshments for Marion in a little basket. We drove round by the road towards the station & Edith walked across the fields so as to be sure & not miss Marion. Edith met her & they came back & got in & we all drove about 6 miles round & ended up at a large old-fashioned farmhouse (Mr. Black's near Everton). Everton is a pretty little village with a dam & a flour mill & looks very like Rockwood. Mr. Black has about 300 acres of very good land & seems to be a successful farmer. The house is a square old-fashioned one with a wide verandah around three sides of it. We were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Black & her 2 daughters. After taking off our hats we sat on the verandah & were soon joined by Mr. Black & 2 sons. One of the sons was quite young but nearly bald & his sisters tease him about it, but he doesn't seem to mind a bit. After a while we went into the drawing room along a narrow room with a fine piano & an American organ in it & very tastefully furnished. We played a game of bowls on the carpet having sides. The oldest brother acted as umpire & the other one helped him & saw he did not cheat. It was great fun & we made a good deal of noise over it. The older brother backed up Marion's side & the younger one our side. We won in the end chiefly because Edgar was on their side & he could not play properly. Then a very heavy thunderstorm came on when it was about time for us to go. The lightning was fearfully bright & dazzling. We waited till after 12 o'clock, I had some music, Maud sang "The Old Armchair" and "Annie Laurie" & Miss Black played some pieces. At last when the lightning seemed not quite so bad tho it was raining fast we went. Mrs. Black wrapped each in a good shawl & lent us some v. umbrellas & Mr. B. hung a lantern under the Democrat & off we set in the dark & rain. About half way there is a railway crossing where the line comes round in a sharp curve & you could not possibly see if a train was coming till it is almost on you. Will stopped, listened but there was no sound & we got over all right. . Every now & then lightning would be bright you could see the country lit-up all round as if by electric light. It was quite dazzling. We all got home pretty dry & retired to rest about a quarter to three or half past two in the morning.

Wednesday Aug. 12th. ..There is a nice breeze, today, We did not come down till about 8.30 & Marion slept later than us. Will was up about 6 .so could not have got a very long night's rest. We had a most peaceful afternoon. I sat out on the garden, seat & did fancy work. The other three disappeared to rest & did not come out again till about 5 o'clock. As usual we went to meeting in the evening. Maud & Marion arrived first and Edith and I were rather late & clattered in making considerable noise. The others told us after that Mary Ann Mingle was praying when we went in. We were quite unconscious of it & I'm afraid made a good deal of noise.

Thursday Aug. 13th I went in the morning & took a sketch of J.R. Harris' house. It was rather hot sitting out on a hill top with no shade. However after a while Edgar came out to pay me a visit & I got him to go & get me a parasol which I held up with one hand & pained with the other. Stanley Harris a son of Thomas Harris of Toronto staying at J.R. H's & was here to dinner today with Richie. He is utterly different from this family & can talk away about anything though he is only 17. He is tall & very nice looking. He wants to be a farmer but has not left school yet. About 3.30 we women set off to Rebecca Smith's to pay her a farewell visit. She has an old woman named Mary Balls living with her (sister of W. Wetherald's wife) & very peculiar in fact "cracked". We went nominally to say "Goodbye" to Miss. Smith but really to see this old curiosity; she was out when we were there to tea but today she came & opened the door for us & Edith introduced us all round. She is 70 & fearfully skinny & has a most peculiar voice,* After a time Miss Smith came in & then Mary departed. Men we left there we went by a back way through the garden fence to Samuel Harris' It is a nice place laid out real pretty. John R. Harris used to live there & it was he who did it up & planted the trees but Samuel

Harris' are more of farmers & it looks rough and neglected. Mrs. Samuel Harris is Chas. Starr's sister & is very like him in looks. She was very kind & seemed pleased to see us. The house is awfully bare with no more furniture than is absolutely necessary. She brought us in some nice apples to eat. Mary Ann Mingie had been spending the day there & she came in and told us some of her remarkable stories & made us quite ill with laughing. She seems to gather up all the latest news & then goes from house to house spending the day & imparting what she has learned. After we had refreshed ourselves with two or three apples each we went for a walk up the farm. Up their lane is the highest point in Rockwood & you can see Guelph Catholic Church 11 miles off. On the way there we met Samuel Harris & his sons coming from work driving the cows before them. He is a very delicate looking man very pale, with reddish whiskers but very little like his brother, J.R. Harris, The sons are both rather good looking though fearfully sunburnt & very farmish looking. They are not at all bashful. Wesley went and got a small telescope he had bought lately & let us look at different places through it. Then we walked back to the house taking a good look at the cows as we went. Wesley had tea with his shirt sleeves rolled up & never tidied himself a bit. He entertained us a good part of tea time with accounts of how he was starved at Pickering College & how he was always last at meals. We had tea 'about 8 o'clock & sat at the table till nearly 9, I should think, talking. Then we went into the parlor & had a little singing & Maud & I entertained the boys with descriptions of our journey from home. We left about 10 o'clock & it was nearly pitch dark. But we got home quite safe though I must say I did not much like the lonely parts of the road at all. Marion was the same. Cousin Will & Edgar had retired to rest when we got home.

Friday Aug. 14th

We went down to Mrs. Harris' to say good bye to her & ask Alice Treffry if she would like to come a boat ride with us but she declined with thanks. Miss Harris gave us a feed of apples & then we went to the office where Cousin Will showed us a great lot of cloth & dye colorings. We finished up the morning with a boat ride with Edgar. He and I landed at one place and went back into the woods & got a lot of birch bark, Maud & Marion stayed in the boat, the latter tried her hand at learning to row & got on splendidly. Got home about 11.45 & had dinner & about 2 o'clock a man came with a wagon & took our boxes to the station. We then bid Cousin Will "good-bye" & went off across the fields to the station. We had a very pleasant journey here, had 2 changes. Arthur met us with his spanking team & we called on the way at Uncle Thomas'. We drove up the drive and stopped. Then we heard a little screech & a fluttering noise. Connie came first & dashed at us to kiss us, climbing right up the wagon wheel. Then Aunt Julia, Louisa, Ada, Jessie, Petchell & finally Uncle Thomas, all flocked round the wagon. Aunt Julia wanted us to promise to come there tomorrow to stay a few days but we thought that rather too sudden to leave Uncle Charles, the day after getting there. Marion asked them if they could not come up tomorrow and bring Connie and leave her there a bit, so they agreed to do so. We got a most warm reception at Uncle Charles, everything looked so homelike & cosy after the rather bare rooms at Rockwood. They all seemed pretty well except that Uncle Charles had been having a very bad gathered finger. We had a real sumptuous tea & a real good talk. Marion talked to Uncle Charles & Aunt Martha- & Maud & I to Lucy & Emma. Uncle Sam's have all gone to Toronto now which is rather a relief in some ways to them here, Aunt Ettie is such a fearful talker. Arthur said Aunt Martha had a bad headache several days with listening to her saying "Yes" so often. Uncle Sam's have rented a house not far

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