

up two or three subjects in this way, they have the greater advantage, but a high standard of excellence is becoming more and more the demand of the day, and she who would command success must keep her eyes open to the requirements of the times. I know a lady who has her time fully occupied with literature classes in schools, her sister is making very fair way in the teaching of elocution, while yet another sister has more than she can do in preparing candidates for local musical examinations, for which she is well qualified. In all appointments that are worth having, there is no such acceptable reference as a certificate from one of the recognised examining bodies. Indeed it is extremely difficult to obtain remunerative teaching without one of these patents of ability, which are now placed within the reach of all. I may add that the demand for properly trained and certificated Kindergarten teachers is in excess of the supply.

The other remunerative employments open to girls,

such as post-office and telegraph clerkships, all imperatively demand the preliminary course of efficient training. The system of open competition is to be applied to these appointments, rendering the special preparation more than ever necessary. Of the medical profession, it is needless to say that very hard work and determined perseverance will alone compass the training required.

We find therefore, on investigation, that many more spheres of work are open to girls than there were in bygone times, and that as a natural result there are more workers than there ever were. The inevitable tendency of this state of things is to depreciate the value of the incompetent, and leave the prizes in the hands of those who are most qualified to hold them, and indeed it would be well for girls to remember that their claim for remunerative work can only be established by their proved ability to perform it.

M. B. H.

## A "JAM OF LUMBER" IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

BY PROFESSOR J. P. SHELDON



SCENE of unique and singular strangeness was witnessed last October by a number of visitors at Grand Falls, about 150 miles up the noble river St. John. It must be understood that the "lumber-men" of the great Canadian forests frequently depend entirely on floating their logs down the rivers to the saw-mills below, and in some cases the trees are water-borne in this way many scores of miles, no other system of

carriage being practicable. The logs are cut in the forests and hauled to the river's bank, when they are floated along on the crest of a freshet. Last autumn a vast number of them were waiting in the upper part of the river, held there by booms to which they were moored; but the saw-mills were almost idle, and as the owners wanted the logs to go on with, orders were given to cast them adrift without waiting for a rise of the water. But the number of logs waiting was enormous, and the water was sinking rather than rising, hence the "jam" which we shall presently describe.

At Grand Falls, the river St. John has carved a deep, long gully or channel through the dark igneous rock, whose steep sides are crowned with pine and spruce and *lignum vitæ*, forming wild and beautiful scenery. The channel is some 80 to 100 feet deep, by 150 to 200 feet wide, forming curves and bends and sweeps, of wild and weird beauty, which is very striking when the splendid autumn tints have covered the forests. The scenery generally in this district is

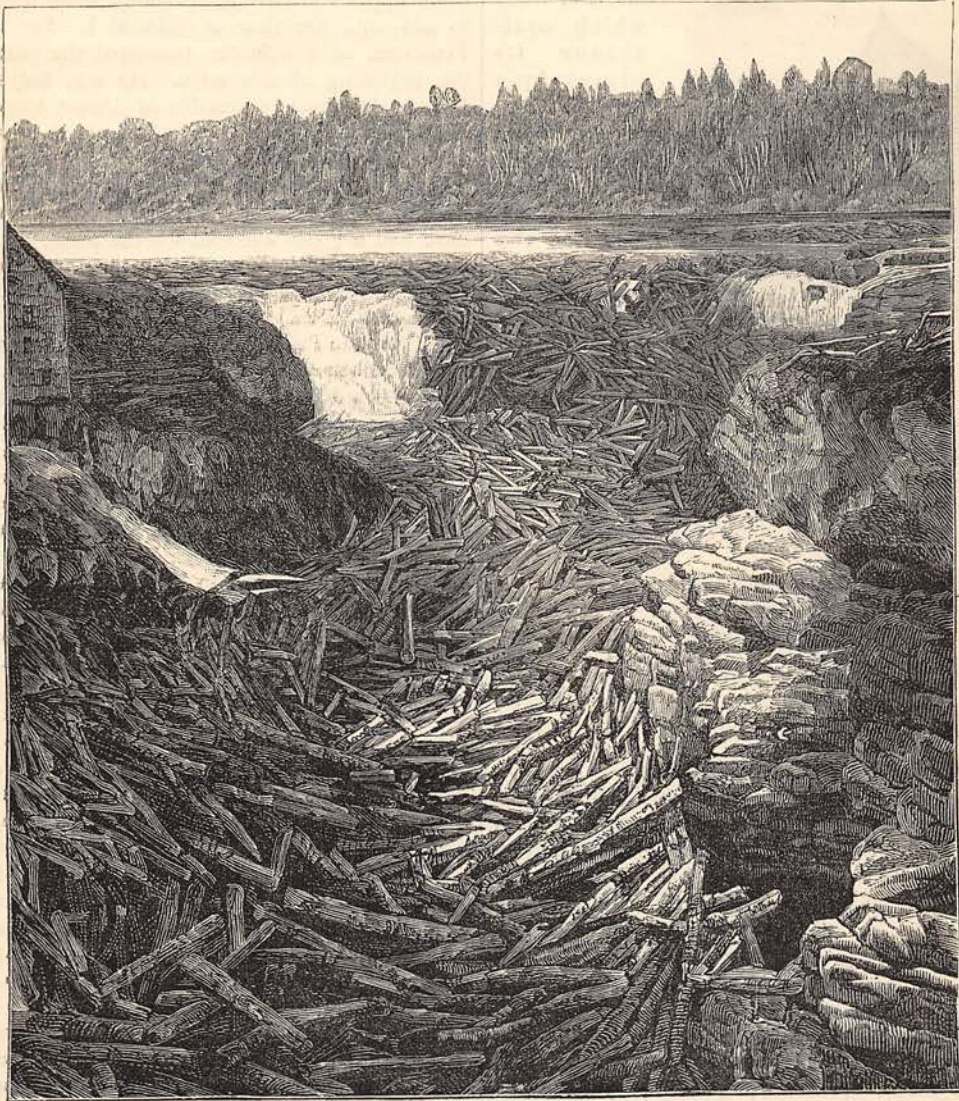
very fine, and the Grand Falls are indeed beautiful, an enterprising American hotel-keeper advertising them as "Niagara Surpassed!" They are, however, far enough behind Niagara in magnificent and awe-striking splendour, but they are worth going a long way to see.

The annexed illustration, from a photograph taken on the suspension bridge, gives an excellent view of the gully, and of the jam of logs, which nearly obliterates the falls. The jam, indeed, is not even half given, for it extends a quarter of a mile or so below the bridge, but the portion seen gives a good idea of the rest. It was estimated that the jam contained no less than twenty-seven to thirty million cubic feet of timber, and it was blocked up there firmly, with the river surging and swirling beneath it, though breaking through in places, forming masses of foam and froth discoloured by the sap of the timber. The logs, some of which were very large, were piled up in all sorts of grotesque attitudes, some of them being nearly on end and trembling and nodding to the play of the torrent beneath; others were thrown high up against the rocks, which they butted in savage impotence; and for the most part they were piled on each other five or six deep, completely obscuring the water.

On the 20th of October, a party of gentlemen, of whom the writer was one, were paying a visit of inspection to the new Danish settlement in that part of the province, and took the chance of looking at the jam of logs, the like of which has not been seen before and probably will not again. Actuated by the love of dangerous adventure which seems to be a part of the Anglo-Saxon nature, the party decided to make a tour of the logs. Starting at the bottom, they carefully threaded their way over the damp, slippery

timber; many of the logs were loose, offering a treacherous foot-hold, and others were scaled at the risk of broken limbs. The progress was slow, but it was cheered by the emulation of companions, and encouraged by those who looked down from the banks. As the falls were neared, the journey became more

turning under one's feet, but there was no retreating the way we had come. Fortunately the logs reached to the shore, and it was a matter of great delicacy to step on them safely, but eventually the whole party reached the bank in safety, receiving a hearty cheer from the many onlookers who had gathered around.



A "JAM OF LUMBER."

difficult and dangerous, because of the blinding clouds of spray which rose from the cataract; the logs were slimy with wet, while they quivered in response to the force of the descending water. Going up the face of the falls, with the logs in extraordinary positions, and the water seething and hissing through the spaces amongst them, was an achievement requiring nerve and great care, for a false step would probably have extinguished a life. Out over the top of the falls the logs were loosely lying in still water, sinking and

A few hours later a swell of the river moved some of the logs, so that the feat could not again have been done.

The party alluded to consisted of several members of the Provincial Government, two or three officials, and one or two other gentlemen. It was said that the adventure might easily have had important political consequences, involving a change of Government, and the party were warmly congratulated on the safe termination of a somewhat rash undertaking.