# MARIA CHAPDELAINE, A TALE OF THE LAKE ST. JOHN COUNTRY

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Maria Chapdelaine, a Tale of the Lake St. John Country by Louis Hémon & W. H. Blake

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### LOUIS HÉMON & W. H. BLAKE

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A TALE OF THE LAKE ST. JOHN COUNTRY



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### MARIA CHAPDELAINE

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A TALE OF THE LAKE ST. JOHN COUNTRY

BY

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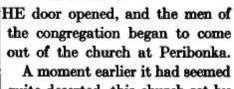
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### CHAPTER I PERIBONKA

The door opened, and....

### CHAPTER I PERIBONKA

Ite, missa est



quite deserted, this church set by the roadside on the high bank of

the Peribonka, whose icy snow-covered surface was like a winding strip of plain. The snow lay deep upon road and fields, for the April sun was powerless to send warmth through the gray clouds, and the heavy spring rains were yet to come. This chill and universal white, the humbleness of the wooden church and the wooden houses scattered along the road, the gloomy forest edging so close that it seemed to threaten, these all spoke of a harsh existence in a stern land. But as the men and boys passed through the doorway and gathered in knots on the broad steps, their cheery salutations, the chaff flung from group to group, the continual in-