

From the falls of St. Anthony I set out by land on the 17th of
November 1776, and proceeded up the Mississippi, about fourteen
miles, came to Rum River about twenty yards wide, which comes
from the North East, the 19th I arrived to some small Mountains on the
East, the 20th came to a river that joins the Mississippi from the West, the
21st arrived at the river called St. Louis, about thirty yards wide,
here the river Mississippi is narrow and not more than about 90
yards wide; here it appears that the Mississippi is composed chiefly of branches
of small rivers, the Country in some places hilly but no large Mountains,
the river appears in general, rather of a gentle current, it being very full of
ice, and in some places, shut up I could not be very certain as to that, the
land mostly very good, here I observed very great numbers of Deer, Car-
=boos, some Elk & abundance of Beavers, Otters and other Furs, a little
above this to the North East is a number of small Lakes called the Thousand
Lakes, at which place is the best hunting Country in all these parts, tho'
but seldom frequented, yet the hunters never fail here of having good
success. The Mississippi has never been explored farther up than the
River St. Louis, and I believe by none so far, but only by father P
Henriquin (from whom, he being the first, these parts derived their
names) and myself so that we are intirely obliged to the Indians,
for any other intelligence Northward, as far as the passage of the
Traders, to what is called the North West trade, to Winnepeck
Lake

Lake

Lake which constitutes the Waters of the River Bourbon, that discharges
itself into Hudsons Bay. On the 25th I returned and came to the Land
that I left opposite the River S. Pierre, the River being clear of Ice, by
reason of its western situation, I found nothing to obstruct my passage, but
cold nights; The 28th I arrived about forty miles to the entrance of a
small branch from the North, here, as I found my store of names pretty
well exhausted, I gave to this river my own name, about forty miles
farther up, I came to the forks of Verd and Red Marble Rivers, that
form a junction just before they enter the S. Pierre, The 7th of December
I arrived to the utmost bounds of my travels West, when I found a part
of five bands of the Naudowessie Nation, here I resided near seven
months. The River S. Pierre, at its junction with the Mississippi, is about
a hundred yards wide, and continues that width nearly all the way
as far as I went, it has a great depth of Water, and in some places
runs with a hard current, about fifty miles from the mouth are some
rapids, and near where I found those bands of Naudowessie are some
more rapids. This river flows thro' a most delightful Country, abounds
with ad spontaneous growth of many, if not a sufficiency, for the
necessaries of life, and with a little improvement might arrive to a
degree of Luxury, having abundance of wild Rice, the shores
lined with Plum trees loaded with fruit, vines full of Grapes,
Apples much larger than the common Crab, the Meadows covered
with

with Hops, and many other Vegetables, the ground stored with Roots,
such as Angelica, Spiknard, ground nuts, as large as Hens Eggs, and
other eatable Roots; a little from the River on each side are very beautiful
Prospects of gradual descents and ascents, with now and then some groves
of trees and large growths of Maple sufficient to make sugar for any
number of inhabitants; near to the branch called Marble River, is
the mountains where the Indians get a sort of red stone, from which
they hew their pipes, and in some parts are found a black hard clay
stone, from which the Naudowessies wrought their Pots for family
use; This Country abounds with a milk white Clay, some of which
is very hard, likewise a blue Clay, with which the natives paint
themselves of different Colours. In June 1767, I returned to Lapraire
Lachine at the great Town of the Ottigamies, where I procured
goods for presents to the Indians and proceeded up the River
Mississipi again to where the Chipeway River enters the Otter, a
little below Lake Piper, here having an Indian Pilot I directed him
to steer for the Ottawa Lakes at the head of this River, where I arrived
the fore part of July. This river at the mouth, is about eighty yards
wide but much wider above; about thirty miles it parts into two
branches, continued up the East branch according to the pitched line,
the Country for about sixty miles is very level, on the banks are
fine meadows, where were seen large droves of Buffalo and

Elk

Elk, more plentiful than I had ever seen before, the Country to the falls almost without any Timber, and above that, very uneven & rugged, thick timbered with Pines very large, Beack, Maple, Birch and other sorts of Timber. Situate between two small Lakes is a small Town of the Chipeway Nation, from whence the River below takes its name, in July I left this Town crossed a number of Lakes, and carrying places between them, came to one branch of the heads of the St. Croix River, which I descended to a fork, and then ascended another branch to its utmost head, found several Copper mines of Virgin Copper on these two branches, here I found a small brook which my Guid thought might join streams to form a River Navigable for our Canoes, which we did and descended a most rapid River from its source to its entrance into Lake Superior, this river, I named Goddards River; the Country from the Ottoway Lakes to the Lake Superior is in general very uneven and thick Timbered, the soil in some places very good, and in others but indifferent, in the heads of the St. Croix and Chipeway Rivers, are exceeding fine Sturgeon; all the Wilderness between the Mississippi and Lake Superior, is by the Indians called the Musketoe Country, and I thought rightly named, for I never saw or felt so many of those Insects before, it being in their proper season.

The latter end of July I arrived at the Grand
Cottage

Portage, where they carry over their Canoes and Baggage nine miles into a number of small Lakes, some of which descend in Lake Superior, and others into the waters of the Bourbon, thro' the South West parts where I first entered it was tolerable level; at the Grand Portage is a small Bay locked across with an Island which obstructs the prospect into the open Lake, which in such a dreary Country makes it rather pleasant; at the Grand Portage, I met a large party of the Killestenoos and Assinipoils, with their respective Kings and their families, with whom I staid about a fortnight, and learned many things from them, of their Country, Traffick &c. They were come to this place, in order to meet the Traders from Michillimackinac, who were bound to the North West. On the beginning of October I arrived at Cadote Fort, at the falls of S.^t Mary, at the South West, corner of the Lake Superior; the land on the North and East parts of this Lake is very mountainous and barren, two very large Rivers enter on the North and North East, the one called Allouispignon River leads to a band of the Chipewags, that inhabit on a Lake of that name, the other Michipiston River that leads near S.^t James's Bay, and has but a short Carriage into a River that enters there to a Fort belonging to the Hudsons Bay Company, it was in this passage that the party of French from Michillimackinac invaded the settlements of the Company in Queen Ann's Wars and took

thru'

their Ports, and brought the Cannon which were small Brass
pieces to Michillimackinac where they are now, not far from
Allanippigon, is a small River, that just before it falls into
the Lake has a fall of six hundred feet, the small Islands many
of them near the Shore in Lake Superior, are covered with Copper
Ore, that looks like Lopperas, a few Indians inhabit round the
Lakes supposed to be the remains of the Ancient Algonkins that
have been mostly destroyed in their Wars with the Iroquois of
Canada; Lake Superior has near forty Rivers that fall into it
of some considerable bigness; St. Mary's River from Lake
Superior is about forty five miles long to Lake Huron, it grows
much wider near the latter from whence it is about forty five
miles from Michillimackinac.
