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HISTORY.

CARVER'S TRAVELS.

(Continued.)

ON the waters that fall into Lake Winnepeck, the neighbouring nations make numbers of excellent furs. Some of these they carry to the factories and settlements belonging to Hudson's Bay company, situate about the entrance of the Bourbon river: but this they do with reluctance on several accounts; for some of the Assinipoils and Killistinoes, who usually traded with the company's servants, told me, that if they could be sure of a constant supply of goods from Michillimackinac, they would not trade any where else. They shewed me some cloth and other articles that they had purchased at Hudson's Bay, with which they were much dissatisfied, thinking they had been greatly imposed upon in the bargain.

Allowing that their accounts were true, I could not help joining in their opinion. But this dissatisfaction might probably proceed, in a great measure, from the intrigues of the Canadian traders: for whilst the French were in possession of Michillimackinac, having acquired a thorough knowledge of the trade of the north-west countries, they were employed on that account, after the reduction of Canada by the English traders there, in the establishment of this trade with which they were themselves quite unacquainted. One of the methods they took to withdraw these Indians from their attachment to the Hudson's Bay company, and to engage their good opinion in behalf of their new employers, was by depreciating on all occasions the company's goods, and magnifying the advantages that would arise to them from trafficking entirely with the Canadian traders. In this they too well succeeded, and from this, doubtless did the dissatisfaction on the Assinipoils and Killistinoes expressed to me, partly proceed. But another reason augmented it; and this was the length of their journey to the Hudson's Bay factories, which, they informed me took them up three months during the summer heats to go and return, and

from the smallness of their canoes they could not carry more than one third of the beaver they killed. So that it is not to be wondered at, that these Indians should wish to have traders come to reside among them. It is true that the parts they inhabit are within the limits of the Hudson's Bay territories, but the company must be under the necessity of winking at an encroachment of this kind, as the Indians would without doubt protect the traders among them. Besides, the passports granted to the traders that go from Michillimackinac give them liberty to trade to the north-west about Lake Superior; by which is meant *le lac la Reine*, lake Winnepeck, or any other parts of the waters of the Bourbon river, where the couriers, *coureurs de bois*, or traders, may make it most convenient to reside.

Lac du Bois, as it is commonly termed by the French in their maps, or in English the lake of the wood, is so called from the multiplicity of wood growing on its banks; such as oaks, pines, firs, spruce, &c. This lake lies still higher up a branch of the river Bourbon, and nearly east from the south end of the lake Winnepeck. It is of great depth in some places. Its length from east to west about seventy miles. It has but a few islands, and these of no great magnitude. The fishes, fowls, and quadrupeds that are found near it, vary but little from those of the other two lakes. A few of the Killistinoe Indians sometimes encamp on the borders of it to fish and hunt.

This lake lies in the communication between lake Superior, and the lakes Winnepeck and Bourbon. Its waters are not esteemed quite so pure, as those of the other lakes, it having in many places a muddy bottom.

Lac la Pluye, so called by the French, in English the Rainy Lake, is supposed to have acquired this name from the first travellers that passed over it, meeting with an uncommon deal of rain; or, as some have affirmed, from a mist like rain occasioned by a perpendicular water-fall that empties itself into a river which lies to the south west.

This lake appears to be divided by an isthmus, near the middle, into two parts

the west part is called the great rainy lake, the east, the little rainy lake, as being the least division. It lies a few miles farther to the east-ward, on the same branch of the Bourbon, than the last mentioned lake. It is in general very shallow in its depth. The broadest part of it is not more than twenty miles, its length, including both, about three hundred miles. In the west part the water is very clear and good; and some excellent fish are taken in it. A great many fowl resort here at the fall of the year. Moose deer are to be found in great plenty, and likewise the cariboo; whose skin for breeches or gloves, exceeds by far any other to be met with in North-America. The land on the borders of this lake is cleared in some places very good, but rather too thickly covered with wood. Here reside a considerable band of Chipeways.

Eastward from this lake lie several small ones, which extend in a string to the great carrying place, and from thence into lake Superior. Between these little lakes are several carrying places, which render the trade to the north-west difficult to accomplish, and exceeding tedious, as it takes two years to make one voyage from Michillimackinac to these parts.

Red lake is a comparative small lake at the head of a branch of the Bourbon river, which is called by some Red river. Its form is nearly round, and about sixty miles in circumference. On one side of it is a tolerable large island, close by which a small river enters. It bears almost south-east both from lake Winnepeck and from lake du Bois. The parts adjacent are very little known, or frequented, even by the savages themselves.

Not far from this lake, a little to the south-west, is another called white bear lake, which is nearly about the size of the last mentioned. The waters that compose this lake are the most northern of any that supply the Mississippi, and may be called with propriety its most remote source. It is fed by two or three small rivers, or rather large brooks.

A few miles from it, a little to the south-east, are a great number of small lakes, none of which are more than ten miles in circumference, that are called