

# North-Carolina Chronicle; or, Fayetteville Gazette.

—[No. 16, of Vol. II.]—

M O N D A Y, D E C E M B E R 27, 1790.

—[Total No. 68.]—

## HISTORY.

### CARVER'S TRAVELS.

(Continued.)

ONE of my chief amusements was that of fishing for trouts. Tho' the streights were covered with ice, we found means to make holes through it, and letting down strong lines of fifteen yards in length, to which were fixed three or four hooks baited with the small fish before described, we frequently caught two at a time of forty pounds weight each; but the common size is from ten to twenty pounds. These are most delicious food. The method of preserving them during the three months the winter generally lasts, is by hanging them up in the air, and in one night they will be frozen so hard, that they will keep as well as if they were cured with salt.

I have only pointed out in the plan of my travels, the circuit I made from my leaving Michillimackinac till I arrived again at the fort. Those countries that lie nearer to the colonies have been so often and so minutely described, that any further account of them would be needless. I shall therefore only give my readers, in the remainder of my journal, as I at first proposed, a description of the other great lakes of Canada, many of which I have navigated over, and relate at the same time a few particular incidents that I trust will not be found inapplicable or unentertaining.

In June, 1768, I left Michillimackinac, and returned in the *Gladwyn* schooner, a vessel of about eighty tons burthen, over lake Huron to lake St. Claire, where we left the ship, and proceeded in boats to Detroit. This lake is about ninety miles in circumference, and by the way of Huron river, which runs from the south corner of lake Huron, receives the waters of the three great lakes, Superior, Michigan, and Huron. Its form is rather round, and in some places is deep enough for the navigation of large vessels, but towards the middle of the lake, where it narrows, there are shoals that are loaded from passing over it.

Such as are in ballast only, may find water sufficient to carry them quite through. The cargoes, however, of such as are freighted, must be taken out, and after being transported across the bar in boats, reloaded again.

The river that runs from lake St. Claire to lake Erie (or rather the streight, for thus it might be termed from its name) is called Detroit, which is in French, the streight. It runs nearly south, has a gentle current, and depth of water sufficient for ships of considerable burthen. The town of Detroit is situated on the western banks of this river, about nine miles below lake St. Claire.

Almost opposite, on the eastern shore, is the village of the ancient Hurons: a tribe of Indians which has been treated of by so many writers, that adhering to the restrictions I have laid myself under of only describing places and people little known, or incidents that have passed unnoticed by others, I shall omit giving a description of them. A missionary of the order of Carthusian Friars, by permission of the bishop of Canada, resides among them.

The banks of the river Detroit, both above and below these towns, are covered with settlements that extend more than twenty miles; the country being exceedingly fruitful, and proper for the cultivation of wheat, Indian corn, oats, and peas. It has also many spots of fine pasture; but as the inhabitants, who are chiefly French that submitted to the English government after the conquest of these parts by general Amherst, are more attentive to the Indian trade than farming, it is but badly cultivated.

The town of Detroit contains upwards of one hundred houses. The streets are somewhat regular, and have a range of very convenient and handsome barracks, with a spacious parade at the south end. On the west side lies the king's garden, belonging to the governor, which is very well laid out and kept in good order.—The fortifications of the town consist of a strong stockade made of round piles, fixed firmly in the ground, and lined with palisades. These are defended by some small bastions, on which are mounted a few indifferent cannon of an inconsiderable size, just sufficient for its de-

fence against the Indians, or an enemy not provided with artillery.

The garrison, in time of peace, consists of two hundred men, commanded by a field officer, who acts as chief magistrate under the governor of Canada.

In the year 1762, in the month of July, it rained on this town and the parts adjacent, a sulphureous water of the colour and consistence of ink; some of which being collected into bottles, and wrote with, appeared perfectly intelligible on the paper, and answered every purpose of that useful liquid. Soon after, the Indian wars already spoken of, broke out in these parts. I mean not to say that this incident was ominous of them, notwithstanding it is well known that innumerable well attested instances of extraordinary phenomena happening before extraordinary events, have been recorded in almost every age by historians of veracity; I only relate the circumstance as a fact of which I was informed by many persons of undoubted probity, and leave my readers, as I have hitherto done, to draw their own conclusions from it.

Lake Erie receives the waters by which it is supplied from the three great lakes, through the streights of Detroit, that lie at its north-west corner. This lake is situated between forty one and forty-three degrees of north latitude, and between seventy-eight and eighty-three degrees of west longitude. It is near three hundred miles long from east to west, and about forty in its broadest part; and a remarkable long narrow point lies on its north side, that projects for several miles into the lake towards the south-east.

There are several islands near the west end of it so infested with rattlesnakes, that it is very dangerous to land on them. It is impossible that any place can produce a greater number of all kinds of these reptiles than this does, particularly the water snake. This lake is covered near the banks of the islands with the large pond lily; the leaves of which lie on the water so thick as to cover it entirely for many acres together; and on each of these lay, when I passed over it, wreaths of water snakes basking in the sun, which amounted to myriads.

The most remarkable of the different