

Interesting Geographical Facts.

From Niles' Weekly Register.

LAKES ERIE, HURON AND MICHIGAN.

The splendid victory over the British force on Lake Erie, by Commodore Perry, and the expected movements of the north-western army, under Major General Harrison, now consisting of at least 7,000 choice troops, eminently calculated for the services required, very naturally produce much enquiry for the geography of that portion of North America lying on the Upper Lakes, with an account of the lakes themselves, that the effect of a powerful naval and military force acting against the allies, may be anticipated. To aid this enquiry and collect into a focus all that we know of these things, the following sketches were prepared. We are not willing to say that every item is correct—it is almost impossible that they should be—but we have compared what we esteem the best authorities with each other, and arranged many of the particulars from the notes of our common place-book, collected within the two last years for this very purpose, and the whole may be accepted as of general credit.

The position of the great lakes is so well known to the people of the United States from the common use of the map, that we shall waste no time in describing it; but proceed immediately to the main objects of enquiry.

Lake ERIE is of an elliptical form, three hundred miles long from east to west, and ninety broad at its widest part, from north to south. The depth is rated at twenty fathoms; but here are many shoals. The bottom is generally of a light yellowish sand; which being disturbed by storms, tinges the waters of the lake, at other times clear and of a greenish color. The northern shore is rude and rocky, but has several harbors for small vessels, and (fort Erie and Malden, or (as the British call it) Amherstburg, large ships may ride safely. Long Point, running from the north shore, is a narrow peninsula of sand, piled with mighty rocks, towards the north; but on the other side presents a fine beach.—very convenient to haul the boats out of the surf upon it, when the lake is too rough for sailing and rowing. The south side of Erie is generally a sand beach, and the harbors are all inclosed with bars at their entrance. But in some places, at Cayaboga particularly, there are immense ranges of rocks, rising perpendicularly out of the waters of the lake, forty or fifty feet high, and several miles in length. The danger of passing these is so great in the time of a storm, that the Indians always offer a sacrifice of tobacco to the water, as they approach them. The harbors on this side of the lake, best known to us are, Black Rock opposite fort Erie; Erie, where is the United States navy yard, &c. here the water on the bar is not more than seven or eight feet, though there is depth enough within it; Cleveland, with six or seven feet water; Sandusky and Put-in-Bay, where our squadron was on the 14th ultimo, which last is spoken of as one of the "best harbors in America." This bay is not laid down in the maps, nor is it mentioned in any of the books or papers we have; but we apprehend it is near the head of the lake, about forty miles above Sandusky, and from 20 to 30 from Malden. Passing Malden, where the Detroit river is about three miles wide, (though the channel is within the range of a musket shot from the fort, which is, therefore, the key of the higher lakes) with a line navigation of eighteen miles, you arrive at the town of Detroit, famous for Hull's capitulation, and the river here is only half a mile wide. Detroit was a handsome and lively place, and contained about twelve hundred inhabitants at the time of its surrender, who had a considerable commerce on the lakes and with the neighboring Indians. Passing Detroit, the river again expands, and receives the waters of Lake St. Clair by a mouth a mile and a half wide. This lake is about ninety miles in circumference. Some say it has a bar across the middle, running east and west, to pass which vessels proceeding to or from Lake Huron must be unladen; we do not credit this assertion, but believe it may be navigated by any of the vessels we have on Lake Erie, with safety. The river St. Clair, which unites the lake of that name with Lake Huron, presents an easy entrance for vessels into the latter; and is about eighteen miles long.

Lake HURON is of a triangular shape, about one thousand miles in circumference, and navigable for large ships, though some say it is not safe for vessels drawing more than nine or ten feet, on account of the shoals; perhaps chiefly because they are yet little known. The shores of this lake are represented as generally sterile, being composed of sand and small stones, but at some distance back the soil is pretty good. On the northern parts are many valuable establishments for carrying on the fur trade of great importance to the enemy. From the northern extremity of this lake, there is a back passage to Montreal; for the following is an account of which we were indebted to the captain of the Aurora about a twelve month ago.

The passage from Montreal to this post, (St. Joseph's, to be noticed hereafter) is by the Quaiwas river, which has its source in the Lake Timiskaming north of Lake Huron, but the passage from which into Lake Huron, is by a portage of 150 miles to the navigable head of French river, which falls into Lake Huron. The Quaiwas river falls into the Cadaraqui from the north west about ten miles above Montreal, and presents in the passage upwards from Montreal numerous rapids, the waters passable with difficulty by canoes, and portages over which every thing must be transported by human labor only; circumstances which render it inconvenient for military use, since a force passing upward must not only transport its military stores and provisions over these portages, but the supply and difficulty must be increased with numbers. These facts in

the present posture of affairs are very important; because they demonstrate, that with the command of the lakes, which the United States can always possess when they determine to employ the ample and facile means they possess, the whole of the Indian trade of the British must fall, and their garrisons must surrender or descend the Ottawa river from mere necessity; we shall therefore give a short sketch of the passage up this river as it is pursued by the traders, whose commodities for transport are much more manageable than military apparatus.

The navigation is conducted in canoes of birch, which carry about eight or ten men, and from forty to sixty packages of merchandise; besides their provisions, biscuit, pork, pease and Indian corn.—In May they leave La Chine about a mile below the entrance of the river Ottawa, and proceed to St. Anne, about two miles from the western end of the island upon which stands Montreal, the two mountains being on the opposite side of the lake here formed by the confluence of the Ottawa with the Cadaraqui, and taking the name of the lake of the two mountains; at St. Anne's, there is a rapid, where they are obliged to unladen part of their cargoes.—This lake of the two mountains is twenty miles long, and about two miles wide, and cultivation is seen on both its sides; at its end the water contracts and assumes the name of Ottawa river. Here it is the inland voyage is considered as beginning; and after a course of fifteen miles, the current is interrupted by currents and cascades for a succession of ten miles, generally denominated rapids; here the travellers are obliged to unladen and bear their burdens on mules or on their backs; whilst the canoes are towed up against the current with immense labor and patience. There are places where the ground will not admit of the carriage of large loads, and they are therefore carried at several times.

After about sixty miles of smooth current, where the river is generally more than a mile wide, they reach the portage of the lake Chaudiere, where there is a cascade of twenty feet. The portage here is about half a mile, and canoes and all their lading are carried upon men's shoulders. Thence to the next portage des Canoes, is short, but the land carriage is about a third longer than the preceding, and is called portage du Chat; there are two smaller portages called des Sabies and de la Montagne, in eighteen miles to the grand Canot, where the current is again tranquil; next the portage DuFort, which is 245 yards, over which canoes and cargoes must be carried—then the portage of the mountain, the Derige, where the loads must be carried 335 yards over one, and 250 over the other—the last portage of this river is a long one between Les Attamies, Deux Joachins and Roche Capaine, and the discharge De Trou. The distance of the portages nearly two miles, and others over lofty and difficult rocks—when at about four hundred miles from Montreal, Petit Riviere falls into the Ottawa from the south westward; here the voyagers must turn off to the left, and pass this river of about sixty-five miles length, interrupted by rocks and cataracts to the number of thirteen to the high lands, when after the greatest difficulties, and a course of land carriage of about six miles, they reach Lake Nipissing, which is about thirty-six miles long and about fifteen wide; but the track of canoes is much longer, as they must follow the coast.

Out of this lake flows French river before mentioned, precipitating its load over rocks of considerable height, called the Roche Falls, which necessarily infers another portage, of which there are not less than five more in a distance of about 80 miles to the entrance of Lake Huron.

It is by this route it has been supposed general Procter would attempt to make his escape. Indeed, it was stated that the people of Malden had actually sent off their most valuable effects to reach Montreal that way. But this channel, as well as the route through the lakes, is closed by Perry's victory; as Huron, on the fall of Malden, must own the sovereignty of the "striped bunting," as the English in derision called our flag.

Lake MICHIGAN communicates with Huron by the straits of Michilimackinac, which are 15 miles long. This lake is entirely encompassed within the U. States, which are separated from the British possessions by an imaginary line drawn through the middle of lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior, &c. The length of Michigan, from north to south, is estimated at 280 miles, and the breadth between 60 and 70, and it has about the same depth of water as Huron. The island of Michilimackinac, on which stands the village and fort of that name, is situated near the entrance of the strait from Huron, being about 7 miles in circumference, and four miles distant from the nearest land. It abounds with excellent water, and is high and healthy; rising to the centre "as to resemble when you approach it, a turtle's back, from whence it derived its name, Michilimackinac, or the Turtle." The fort is handsomely situated and commands the harbor, which is a beautiful basin of water, 5 or 6 fathoms deep, well sheltered from the winds. The village contained about 300 inhabitants in 1810, chiefly French Canadians; and a very brisk trade was carried on with the neighboring Indians. The export of furs in 1804, was valued at \$238,936 and the duties received on goods imported from the British possessions, were \$80,000.—It was in a very flourishing situation when the enemy possessed themselves of it last year, before the declaration of war was known to our commandant. The hostile force came from St. Joseph's, a post about 40 miles north, situate at the foot of the straits of St. Marie, through which the waters of Lake Superior are discharged into Huron. St. Joseph's was held chiefly as a place of observation on Michilimackinac; which latter the British gave up with great reluctance by Jay's treaty in 1794 though they had conditioned to do it, immediately, in 1793, ten years before. Chicago, or fort Dearborn, is

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State of North-Carolina.

PITT COUNTY. Court of Pleas and Quarter-Sessions, August Term, 1813.

William Adams versus Alexander Nelson. ORIGINAL ATTACHMENT. Levied on a piece of land supposed to contain one hundred and twenty acres, adjoining the land of Giles Nelson, Esq. Laughenhaupt, Samuel Tuten and Levin Adams. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant in the above case is not an inhabitant of this state, ordered, that publication be made in the Minutes three months that unless the defendant appear at the next succeeding term of this court, to be held for this county at court-house in Greensville, on the first Monday in November and February next, reply and plead, judgment will be entered against him. 14, eow 3mp. Test, ALEXANDER EVANS, clerk.

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Wright Tucker versus Alexander Nelson. ORIGINAL ATTACHMENT. Levied on a piece of land, supposed to contain one hundred and twenty acres, adjoining the land of Giles Nelson, Esq. Laughenhaupt, Samuel Tuten and Levin Adams. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant in the above case is not an inhabitant of this state, ordered, that publication be made in the Minutes three months that unless the defendant appear at the next succeeding term of this court, to be held for this county at court-house in Greensville, on the first Monday in November and February next, reply and plead, judgment will be entered against him. 14, eow 3mp. Test, ALEXANDER EVANS, clerk.

State of North-Carolina.

CABARRUS COUNTY. Court of Pleas and Quarter-Sessions, July Term, 1813.

Moses Wiley versus Archibald M'Curdy. ORIGINAL ATTACHMENT LEVIED &c. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant, Archibald M'Curdy, is not an inhabitant of this state, it is ordered by the court that publication be made for three weeks, successively, in the Raleigh Mercury that the defendant, Archibald M'Curdy, appear at our court of pleas and quarter sessions, to be held for the county of Cabarrus, at the court-house in Concord, on the third Monday of October next, and enter his plea to the said suit or judgment will be entered against him according to the plaintiff's request. 14, 3t. Test, GEORGE PHIFER, C. C.

State of North-Carolina.

ROWAN COUNTY. Court of Pleas and Quarter-Sessions, August Term, 1813.

Elizabeth M. Kelly, administratrix, versus John Newman. ORIGINAL ATTACHMENT LEVIED &c. IT appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that the defendant, John Newman, is an inhabitant of this state, it is therefore ordered by the court that publication be made three weeks, successively, in the Raleigh Mercury that the defendant, John Newman, appear at our court of pleas and quarter sessions, to be held for the county of Rowan, at court-house in Salisbury, on the second Monday of November next, and enter his plea to the said suit or judgment will be entered according to the plaintiff's demand. 14, 3tp. Test, JOHN GILES, C. C.

Letters

- Remaining in the Post-Office, Raleigh, on 1st October, 1813. A. John R. Adam, Green station, or [unclear] B. Caren Brannon, Leach C. Thomas Brown, Samuel Lee D. Jacob Books, M. Thomas Mitchell E. Benj. Bell, 2 William Marshall F. Philip Bruce, Anthony Miller G. Fielching Brasley, Henry Moore H. James Burrow, Matthew M'Collin I. Ansel Chapel, Mages M'Conna J. Aaron Caraway, Hugh M'Call K. David C. Ker, Harry Mourin L. Joseph Caldwell, Newell R. Miller M. William Carlton, John C. M'Leary N. Elizabeth Connel, Giles Nance O. Commanding Officer of the detached militia, William Nance P. Hiram Pugh, L. A. Petay Q. Robert Dood, Francis Phillips R. Cormicks Dolan, Frank Pasmory S. Willis Denson, Reuben Peony T. Miss Harriet Duff, James Rigby U. James Franklin, Zaddock R-y V. James Fish, Jesse Reid W. Montague Goret, Randil Redding X. A. Gilchrist, Clara Rogers Y. Eben: Ginkes, James Rochel Z. Elizabeth Griffin, Meedy Rogers AA. Thomas House, Griffin Ran-He AB. Amos Horton, Doctor Ridley AC. Robert Hurlor Hall, Charles Seab or Eoff AD. Capt. A. Hunter, Isham Stephens AE. Jesse Harris, William Scarborough AF. William Herffin, Axym Scott AG. Joseph Herphill, Big gen Hardy Smith AH. Michael Hill, Fanny M. Shaw AI. William Hendrick, Hannah Spain AJ. John Hall, Malcom Shaw AK. John Harris, Polly Shelton AL. Lavina Johnston, Anne Suggs AM. Robert Johnson, Harrison Smith AN. Miss Frances Jones, Violet Thompson AO. John C. Jones, Rebecca Thompson AP. Nathaniel Jones Crabtree, Solomon Terrell AQ. Solomon Jones, Samuel M. Taylor AR. Felimona Knight, 3 Trent Vaughan AS. Sampson King, W. Joseph Winslow AT. Lucinda Luck, WILLIAM PECK, P. M. 14, 3t. Test, JOHN GILES, C. C.

DISTANCES.

From Fort Meigs to Malden 58 miles; to Fort George, 349 miles; from York to Kingston, 175; from Kingston to Montreal, 200; from Montreal to Quebec, 170.

From Sackett's Harbor to Fort George, 160 miles; ditto to Kingston, 38; Malden to Detroit 16.

For the correctness of this Mr. Mellish's map can be viewed. Voice of the Nation.

S. Bond,

HAS just received from Richmond and Petersburg a fresh supply of GOODS, which he will sell at a very low advance for cash only. Among them is a large assortment of

- Shoes, Cotton Cards, Paper and Ink Powder, Pasteboard, Wire, Ribbons, Glass and Stone Ware, Powder and Shot, Copperas, Glass and Putty, Medicines, Lignum, and Hatter's Trimmingz. Raleigh, October 15. 15, 9t.

North-Carolina Almanack.

JUST PRINTED, at the Minerva Office, Raleigh, and for sale by the quantity of single ones, the NORTH-CAROLINA ALMANACK, FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 1814:

Containing, besides the correct astronomical calculations of Mr. Brooks, a considerable variety of matter, useful and amusing. The precise form of a negotiable note, with complete directions for doing business in the State Bank, are added to the articles of convenient reference.

PRICE of the Almanack per thousand, 40 dollars; five hundred, 20; groce, 7; half groce, 4; dozen, 75 cents; single one, 10 cents. October 15.

Strayed or Stolen,

FROM the pasture of Mr. Robert Torrence, at Salisbury, on the 16th day of September last, a large yellow mare, belonging to the subscriber. She may be known by the following description: She is about fifteen hands high and is seven years old; has a large blaze in her face, one of her hind feet white, and a lump on her back, occasioned by the saddle, but is perfectly well. On the point of her right shoulder is a spot about two or three inches in diameter, inclining to be black, and on being minutely inspected when shedding she has some appearance of being spotted. She travels remarkably well under the saddle and works well in harness. Said mare was brought to Richmond county by John Coles, who reside about twenty miles north east of Salisbury.—any person who will deliver said mare to me, or give information where she may be found, shall receive a generous reward and all reasonable expenses paid. THOMAS G. BLEWETT. Richmond county, Oct. 4, 1813. 15, 5tp.

The editors of the Nashville Whig, the Milledgeville (Georgia) paper, and the Columbia (S. C.) paper, by giving the above place in their papers for two or three weeks, will oblige the subscriber and their accounts will be punctually paid.

W. Boylan

HAS JUST RECEIVED, AND OFFERS FOR SALE, JUNIUS'S Letters, 2 vols. Woodfall's edition. Burke's Works, 10 volumes. Coker's Travels in Egypt, &c.—Cruise on Real Property Duane's Hand Book—Ditto Military Dictionary Horace in London Miss Moore's Christian Morals Sonnet's Views of Religion Poems by a Lay, late—Saurin's Sermons Bralot's Esquimaux; Lee's Memoirs of the Wat Cooper's Equity Pleader; Moore's General Atlas deatue's Evidences of Christianity Batek's Latin Dictionary, price 3 dollars Walker's English Dictionary, abridged Barn's Midwintery; Blank Music Books Hare to non-commissioned Officers Academy for grown horsemen Company Exercises; The Post Captain October 8 14, 6t.

Examination.

RALEIGH ACADEMY. A PUBLIC examination of the students of this institution will commence on TUESDAY, the second of November, and end on the tenth. A number of interesting questions will be delivered during the occasion. Parents, guardians and others, who take an interest in literary exhibitions, are respectfully solicited to attend.—No student (except in a special case) can be dismissed until the whole business be brought to a close. W. HILL, sec October 6th, 1813. 14, 3t.

LOTTERY NOTICE.

THE NEW-YORK UNION COLLEGE LOTTERY, WILL commence drawing on FRIDAY WEEK, October 1st, and will finish drawing in December. Those who wish to know the fate of their tickets in a short time after purchasing, cannot purchase in a better lottery. Tickets 5 cents and 50 cents; prizes, 4-25; Quarters, 2-12; Eighths, 1-6. Orders from the country, including the cash, will be punctually attended to at the respective lottery offices of G. & R. Waite, Corner of St. Paul's-lane and Market-street, BALTIMORE—No. 75, Chesnut-street, PHILADELPHIA—64 and 98, Maiden-lane, NEW-YORK, and No. 48, State-street, ALBANY. All Tickets examined gratis, and cash given for all New-York prizes sold at WAITE'S. September 20; 13, 7tp.

TICKETS.

BALTIMORE HOSPITAL TICKETS still selling at the OXFORD ACADEMY, at five dollars, may be had at the Minerva Office, October 8.