

commandant gave a carte-blanche to all. We had still three hundred leagues to go, and we should undoubtedly have run out of provisions, if we had not used every effort to expedite our movements. The wind favored us in passing Lake Huron, but we had almost constant rain while ascending French river, traversing Lake Nipissing, and on the little river Matawan; it stopped when we entered the Ottawa. I cannot express the rapidity with which we descended that great river; imagination alone can form a just idea. As I was with men whom experience had rendered skilful in shooting the rapids, I was not among the last at Montreal, which I reached on the 28th of September, and left only in the spring, in obedience to an order given me to descend to Quebec.

I had no sooner arrived in that city than our commissary appointed me to the post of Niagara, a new establishment, with a fortress situated at the entrance of a beautiful river that bears the same name, and which is formed by the famous falls of Niagara, south of Lake Ontario, and six leagues from our fort. I accordingly again bent my way to Montreal, and thence passed to Frontenac or Catarakouy, which is a fort built at the entrance of Lake Ontario. Although it is only eighty leagues from Montreal, we were fifteen days in reaching it on account of the rapids we had to pass. There we waited some time for favorable winds; for, at this place, we leave the canoes to take a vessel which the king has had built expressly to run to Niagara. This vessel, which gauges about eighty tons, is very light, and sometimes makes her trip, which is seventy leagues, in less than thirty-six hours. The lake is very

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