

as have come to my knowledge, either thro' the channel of personal experience, or confidential information.

The course of the river was nearly east, and I wintered about seven hundred miles above its discharge into the cedar lake. Its current is very regular, and in the whole distance, we have but one place where the passage is in the least impeded by rapids; and even this place is very trifling, and easily passed with proper care. Every part of this river, where the channel is wide, is much incommoded by sand banks and shoals. The shores and bed of it are muddy, and consequently the water is very dirty. What I have often thought worthy of observation during my stay here, has been the very sudden and rapid rise of the water in the river during the summer months, and this without any apparent cause, or extraordinary rains. In the Summer of 1786 I observed the water to rise ten feet perpendicular in the space of twenty-four hours; thence it subsided gradually to its usual height; and then rapidly rose as before. This rising of the water drowns all the Country about the
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