

the Churchill, and which was also said to open into the Beaver River; but I showed in 1873 that the Beaver receives the La Plonge river, which rises near Lake La Ronge, though not taking the actual waters of the latter lake. The second concerns Lakes Wollaston and Athabasca, as above stated. The third refers to the Great Bear Lake, to which Sir John Richardson attributed three outlets, viz. the Bear Lake River and the Hareskin River, entering the Mackenzie, and the Beghula River, entering the Arctic Ocean. In ascending these three rivers to their respective sources, I proved in 1869-70 that the Bear Lake has only one outlet, viz. the river of the same name; that the Hareskin river flows out of the Wind Lake near Smith Bay in Bear Lake; and that the Anderson (the "Beghula" of Richardson) rises in a little lake at the foot of Mount "Ti-dépay" quite to the north of and some distance from Bear Lake. Lastly, the fourth error is regarding the famous great lake of the Eskimo, to which various openings into the Arctic Ocean were attributed, besides one outlet in the mouths of the Mackenzie and another in the Anderson River. It is now known that this lake (the size of which has been considerably diminished) has but one outlet, the river "Natowdja," a direct tributary of the Arctic Ocean.

I have also, in 1879, made a complete survey of the course of the Slave River from the great lake of the same name to that of Athabasca, in order to complete my former work on the Mackenzie; and it is remarkable that, although I had no map to refer to, and no other instrument than a compass, the result agreed almost exactly with Franklin's route-map of 1820, except as regards some islands which either escaped his observation or have been exposed since his journey, some winter portages that he never crossed, and a few bends in the river which he probably passed at night-time.

Above the rapids formed by the Caribou range, where that range leaves the left bank and turns off towards the east, along the course of the great Des Seins River, or "Thou-bau-dessé,"* the Slave River crosses a flat plain covered with inextricable forests, apparently reclaimed by degrees by the sedimentary deposits of its muddy waters. This river has no sandy shores. Its muddy banks are constantly being washed off on one side to be deposited on the other. At times they give way, and the current, precipitated with violence into the forests, opens fresh channels, whilst the old ones, obstructed by the mire and sand brought down, are filled up and transformed into a marshy savanna. The Duck Portage was formed in this way. Entering it from the north (the direction facing the current), the idea is suggested that it is a channel of the river or one of its affluents; but the traveller soon finds himself in

* This river, a southern affluent of the Great Slave Lake, is apparently represented on M. Petitot's map by the "T'al'tsan-Dessé" or Yellow Knives River. The name used in the above text seems to agree with the "Thu-wu-dessch" of the map of Buek's "Narrative" (1836), which enters the Slave Lake to the east of the mouth of the Slave River.