

a level with the general surface, or rather fills all the depressions along its course, and in consequence is made up of a succession of lake expansions connected by short stretches of rapids, where the river is often broken into several channels by large islands. Below this distance the channel contracts and in five miles the river descends more than 200 feet into a distinct valley well below the level of the surrounding country ; and from there to its mouth always follows a distinct ancient valley cut down into the solid rock from 300 to 1,000 feet below the surrounding country. Between the first and the second gorge, which is about eighty miles lower down stream, the river is almost a continuous succession of heavy shallow rapids so bad that the stream is not used by the Indians. At the second gorge, or Eaton Canon, the river passes through a narrow cleft in the rocks and falls more than 300 feet in less than a mile. Below Eaton Canon the river continues with a very rapid current for 175 miles to where it joins the Larch River, a very large branch from the westward, which was subsequently explored in 1896. From the confluence to these two large streams to its mouth ninety miles below the Koksoak River varies from half a mile to two miles in width, and has everywhere a swift current, so that the discharge is probably greater than any other stream in Labrador.

It had been intended that the party should winter at Fort Chimo, a Hudson's Bay post situated about thirty miles above the mouth of the river, but on our arrival there, we learned that during the previous winter the Indians and Eskimo belonging to this post had suffered grievously from famine, so that, of the former, upwards of 150 persons had perished of starvation, while among the latter several families had been nearly wiped out. This calamity was due to the failure of the herds of barren-ground caribou to make their usual migration from the barren grounds southward to the wooded regions in the late autumn and winter. As the Indians of the region depend almost wholly on the deer for both food and clothing, the failure of the supply reduced them to abject poverty, and was the direct cause of the