

Lake river—met a band of the Kinisteneaux who had just killed a buffalo, which they sold for a brass kettle. Passing by a tortuous route through the region of the Red Elk and Athabasca rivers, which were obstructed by boulders, some of the party had to take to the shore, while the men dragged along the canoe, a laborious and tedious operation; and so on, on foot and in canoes, until they reached the main stream of the Saskatchewan on the 17th of June

"This river flows over a bed composed of sand and marl, which contributes not a little to diminish the purity and transparency of its waters, which, like those of the Missouri, are turbid and whitish; except for that, it is one of the grandest rivers in the world. The banks are perfectly charming, and offer, in many places, a scene the fairest, the best smiling, the best diversified, that can be beheld or imagined. Hills in rare forms crowned with superb groves, valleys agreeably embowered, and embrowned at evening and at morning by the prolonged shadows of the hills and of the woods which adorn them; herds of light-limbed antelopes and majestic buffalo, bounding on the slopes of the hills, or trampling with ponderous tread the verdure of the plains; all these champaign beauties reflected, and doubled, as it were, by the waters of the gently gliding river, the melodious and varied songs of a thousand birds, perched on the tree-tops, the refreshing breath of the balmy breeze, the serenity of the sky, the purity and salubrity of the air, all in a word, pours contentment and joy into the soul of the enchanted spectator. It is beyond and above all, in the morning when the sun is rising, and in the evening, when he is setting, that the spectacle is really ravishing. I could not detach my regards from that superb picture, until the nascent obscurity had obliterated its perfection." Such is the graphic and glowing picture given to us of the Saskatchewan country, by one of the earlier travelers, and as it first presented itself to the eye of the wanderer, the experienced voyageur, and practical man.

From these notes it appears that it takes thirty-eight days to ascend the Columbia, eight days to cross the Rocky Mountains, thence along and across numerous rivulets and streams northward to the Saskatchewan, down the valley of that river and through Lake Winnipeg, forty-one days more; in all, eighty-seven days to Bas de la Riviere, near the Red River Settlement.

When we take into consideration the difficulty of the ascent of the Columbia, and the tortuous and tardy march at the eastern base of the mountains, before entering the main valley of the Saskatchewan, we are forcibly led to the conclusion that twenty or even

twenty
whole
large
could
the
be pur
be exc
the co
katche
doned
comple
at the
would
conclu
source
most
tainly
not ex
1,650

Allo
a jou
little
train
Fraz
reach
to fou
would
ment.

On
meeti

Col
the o
edge
navig
comr
from
the
tance
that
of th
inclu
days
reach