

The District of Gaspé thus destitute of so important a land communication with Quebec, a water communication is generally practised, thereby exposed to the many casualties attendant upon a sea voyage, and a dangerous and iron bound shore, along which on leaving Gaspé Bay, in case of great stress of weather it is almost impossible to find a safe Harbor, if we except *Cape Chat*, which however must be approached with the greatest precaution, or be exposed to imminent danger. There is also an inland communication up the River Ristigouche to a small Portage on the River *Wagansis*, which strikes the Grand River, down the same to the *Madawaska* settlement on the River St. John, thence proceeds to Lake *Temiscouata*, and along the Portage Road, about thirteen leagues through a mountainous and barren Country to the St. Lawrence at River des Caps.

On examining the most correct Maps of that part of the Country, under consideration, it will be found that an easy and practicable Route could be established, and the shortest to the River St. Lawrence, along the River and Lake *Matapédia* to the head thereof, whence a Portage from twenty to twenty one miles in length, which lies through a cultivated country, leads to the River St. Lawrence a few miles below Mr. Macnider's Establishment in his Seigniory of Mitis, whence the Road to *Rimouski* lies along the beach, yet practicable for wheel carriages, much facilitated by the points of land having been cut across at the expense of that Individual.

The Commissioners having agreed upon returning by that communication to Quebec, it afforded me the means of making some Remarks which may, combined to other useful information, contribute to give a tolerably correct idea of the facility with which such an important object could be carried into effect, as connecting under various considerations a District which has almost apparently formed a portion not of Lower Canada, but of the Sister Province of New Brunswick. As I progressed in Canoe, I noted the course of the Rivers by compass, and estimated the distance by our rate of going, taking into balance the strong currents and rapids, which frequently rendered the reckoning of an intricate nature, from which I have been enabled to deduce the Plan to which these remarks are annexed, I also derived much information from an intelligent Indian who had repeatedly traversed the Country in his hunting rambles for the Beaver, the Martin and the Otter.

The River *Matapédia* rises in a spacious Lake at the highlands which separate the waters running into the River St. Lawrence from those which run towards the Sea, the same chain of Mountains now claimed by the United States as the northern boundary of the District of Maine, from whence it traverses in a général S. S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. course through a valuable Country, till it disembogues itself in to the River Ristigouche.— Its Navigation is free to the Lakes, if we except a few bad rapids which are however no impediment in the Spring and Fall Seasons, when from its great depth of Water it is capable of bearing down small Vessels of