

shore of the Lake, a part of the New Dominion, which, although I have already described it in general terms, requires still further notice, from the circumstance that great discoveries of gold, silver and copper have been made in Thunder Bay, near Fort William; a region with which I am well acquainted, and which may yet become as great a mineral region as that on the south shore.

From Sault St. Mary's, at the foot of the Lake, to the boundary line at the Pigeon River, the distance in a straight line, or from headland to headland, may be computed, in round numbers, at 500 miles; but very much more, if following the sinuosities of the lake shore, and computing the average breadth at 70 miles, which I think is, as nearly as possible, correct. The distance to the height of land, or entrance to the Hudson Bay Territory, is, in some instances more, and others less, and we have a total area for this region of 21,000 square miles.

Nearly all along the shores it has a very bleak, inhospitable appearance; it is indented by numerous and deep bays, and studded with a great many islands of more or less extent, which lie along shore, and which, in my opinion, at least, formed, at some remote period, a part of the main land, and have been borne from it by some convulsion of nature. Unlike the south shore, it has excellent harbours; so land-locked are some of them in fact, that if a sailing vessel takes refuge in any of them from a storm, she has to wait for a fair wind to get out again. Its fishing grounds, too, are far superior to those on the south side; any amount of the finest fresh water fish in the world, could be got there, were it within easy reach. If, after all, it should prove that there is no wealth in the land, unquestionably there is plenty of it in the water. It is a land of hills and valleys, arranged in most admirable disorder, for which the practised eye of the geologist might be able to account, but which, to plain men, seems a sad jumble. There are several lakes and rivers, the largest being Lake Nipigon, about a degree north of Fort William, and in about the same longitude. That great ventilator of grievances, the editor of the *Montreal Witness*, stated not very long ago, in one of his issues, somewhat to my amusement, that Lake Nipigon was situated in British Columbia, was as large as Lake Superior, abounded in fine fish, but all knowledge of it was studiously kept concealed from the outer world by the Hudson's Bay Company; whereas the fact is, it is not a third as large, nor a fifth as large either; and could all its contents be discharged through its outlet, namely the Nipigon River, which empties itself into Lake Superior, it would not raise the level of the great basin above three feet. The principal rivers falling into it, proceeding upwards from the Sault St. Mary's, are the Butche-