

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

scouted it as impossible. David Thompson, however, enjoyed the reputation of never having set out upon any expedition, and returning without having achieved his object. This journey proved no exception to the rule. He tramped down the Assiniboine on foot, taking with him a dog-team to carry his provisions; and ascended Red River to its upper waters. Toward the end of April, he reached Turtle Lake, which he states to be the source of the Mississippi. By various waterways he made his way to the St. Louis River, which he descended to Lake Superior, and then surveyed the south shore of the lake, reaching Sault Ste Marie on May 28. From there he returned to Grand Portage.

It would be impossible in this short sketch to follow Thompson in his journeys and explorations throughout the immense country between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains. In 1807, however, he began the most notable of all his undertak-