

ing to the endogenous family. They have been carefully pressed in nature's story-book, and are as perfect as when they fell in those bygone ages, before the probably 20,000 feet of rock, which has been formed since, covered them; in those ages when the gigantic saurians roamed these plains. But we leave this interesting spot where we have obtained some good photographs and bagged many fine specimens of the fossil flora of these rocks, and hasten back to the Mackenzie farm where soon all our traps are on board. We have divided our camp equipment in case of accidents, which may happen at any time while navigating this rapid stream. Reid—a sturdy half-breed who has had much rough experience on some of our Ontario lakes and rivers—is to take the lightest of our two boats and during the journey to take the lead, while Mackenzie and I are to follow. It is 2 p.m. on a lovely June afternoon when we step aboard our rudely made craft and loosen them from their moorings. The current here is very swift, and the moment our boats are loose they glide swiftly down the stream and in a few minutes we are in one of the most dangerous bits of navigation we shall probably encounter. It is what is locally known as the canon. High and in places scarped banks come close to the margin of the river forming a deep gorge through which a large body of water rushes over and between quartzite and other boulders. It is a dangerous spot, and I hold my breath as a large wave dashes our boat against a projecting rock, but fortunately little injury is done, and our boat shoots stern first through the remainder of these turbulent waters, and soon we are out of the canon and gliding over a series of light rapids.

Below this the valley is open and patches of large spruce occupy the sides of the stream, while in other spots poplar, grey willow and other trees form dense shelters for the many wild animals which still inhabit this section of the Northwest. Open patches and wooded lands continue till we reach Tail Creek, township 37, range 24, west of the fourth initial meridian, District of Alberta. We have now reached a most important economic locality, for here are high banks of Lignite coal. The top beds are partly obscured by drift deposits or land slides. Taking the various seams—the thickest of which is about eighty feet—there is a depth of forty-five to fifty feet seen above the level of the