

with thanks. Mr. Hamilton expressed his surprise that we had managed to get away from Naas-Glee, as we were the first white men who had come through this route; and even he found much difficulty with the Indians there. Having persuaded Narra, the chief, to let us have his canoe, we bid farewell to Mr. Hamilton, and proceeded on our journey.

It was fortunate that we sent back our two Indians, as otherwise we should have suffered from want of food, and as it was, we reached Stuart Lake only with great difficulty. We made a fine run to day before a fair wind to Fort Killamoures, which post is only kept up in the winter. Our course from Naas-Glee to this place was south-east, and the distance about 50 miles. The land is good the whole way, with long grass on the benches near the fort, which is a very lonely place. It is a great pity to see this beautiful country so well adapted to the wants of man, lying waste, when so many Englishmen and Scotchmen would be glad to come here and till the soil. Babine Lake is deep, and in some places 5 or 6 miles wide, with islands and points of land to afford shelter from storms; from Fort Killamoures to the head of Babine is about 40 miles, direction south-south-east. From the head down about 20 miles, it runs east and west. We arrived at the head of Babine on the seventh day after leaving Naas-Glee: we had seen no Indians nor snow, and had made a favourable journey.

The district we had passed was well adapted for farming; some of the land is rocky, but on the whole it is a fine country.

At the head of Babine Lake there is a good site for a town, and a harbour could be made, as a stream flows in which would supply the town with water. This is what I call the head-water of the Skeena River; the lake is navigable for steamers and 100 miles in length.

From this to Stuart Lake there is a portage over a good trail, through the finest grove of cotton-wood I have ever seen; the ground was thickly strewn with yellow leaves, giving the scene quite an autumnal appearance, and presenting a picture far different to what we expected in this part of British Columbia.

Six miles from Babine, we came to a small lake where were some Indians fishing here: on our approach they appeared undecided whether to run or remain. I gave them for some food, and they soon provided us with some fish which refreshed us much, and having paid for our repast, we started again. From this a small stream runs a distance of 4 miles to Stuart Lake.

Arrived at Stuart Lake we found no means of crossing, no Indians to direct us, and no food to sustain us, nor had we any shot to enable us to kill ducks. We camped here three nights without food, sleeping the greater part of the time to stifle our hunger. The only thing that supported us was the great idea of the enterprise in which we were engaged, having been the first to explore the route from the Pacific to Fraser River.

One of our party found an old canoe split to pieces; this was rigged on a raft of logs, as well as circumstances would admit.

I returned to the Indians above mentioned and purchased a few herrings, and walked back to our camp with difficulty and found my limbs giving way. Next morning we started on our frail raft, expecting every moment to go down; we were obliged to sit perfectly still, as the least movement would have upset us; a slight breeze sprung up and a small sea washed over us and we had to run for a lee-shore, where kind Providence sent an Indian to succour us. He welcomed us with a "Bonjour," invited us to his lodge and gave us most excellent salmon-trout from the lake. We had at last reached this spot with thankful hearts for our preservation through so many dangers. We stayed a night with this good Indian, and next day gave him a blanket to take us to the Fort. We abandoned our old canoe without regret, and proceeded towards our destination. The Indians all along this were very kind to us. About

Fr  
An  
we  
me  
cov  
Qu  
dow  
half  
conv  
out.  
read  
been  
to or  
that  
repre  
diggi  
stated  
all kn  
presen  
neares  
which  
too, ar  
to rem  
mentio  
mines  
serve to  
El Dor  
through  
peeted  
told, wa  
"Compt  
The e  
as yet w  
confirm  
equalled  
Since v  
from lett  
boundary  
Althou  
have her  
Washingt  
It is no  
not enter