

which it communicated on the western side of the mountains had never been explored, I selected it as the most suitable field for investigation. As my companion in this expedition I was fortunate enough to obtain the assistance of my friend, Dr. Cheadle, of Caius College, Cambridge; to whose energy and perseverance the success of the enterprise is mainly to be attributed.

Having rapidly completed our preparations, we sailed from Liverpool, on the 19th of June, for Quebec; and, passing as quickly as possible through Canada and the North-western States, we reached Georgetown, a small port on Red River at the extreme west border of Minnesota, on the 18th of July. Here we purchased canoes, and descended Red River alone as far as Fort Garry—about 500 miles—just in time to escape the dangers of the Sioux outbreak, which commenced a fortnight later in Minnesota, when nearly the whole of the white population were massacred.

We arrived at Fort Garry on the 7th of August, and, after purchasing horses, carts, and supplies, and engaging a guide and three other half-breeds, set out for Carlton, a Hudson Bay Company's post on the Saskatchewan, which we reached without meeting with any adventure of importance, on the 26th. As it was now too late to attempt crossing the mountains until the following summer, we made a short excursion on to the plains, where we hunted buffalo, and visited the Crees, and other Indians of the prairies.

Returning to Carlton on the 8th of October, we sent two of our men back to Red River, in charge of the most valuable horses, and with the remaining two men and the rest of the horses, travelled to the border of the endless forest, which commences about eighty miles to the north of the north branch of the Saskatchewan. At a beautiful place called La Belle Prairie, we built a small log hut of the roughest description, from which we made short expeditions to trap in the woods, or stalk buffalo on the edge of the plains. During the winter the snow fell to the depth of three feet, and