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granite, and large masses of the same substance are scat-
 tered over their surface. On an arm of Point Lake,
 forty-five miles due north of Fort Enterprise, the rocks
 belong to the transition class. The light blue coloured
 waters of Great Bear Lake are very transparent, more
 especially in the vicinity of the primitive mountains of
 M'Tavish Bay. A piece of white rag, when sunk, did
 not disappear till it had descended to the depth of fifteen
 fathoms. The surface of Bear Lake is not supposed
 to be 200 feet above the Arctic Sea, and as its depth is
 much greater than that amount of feet, its bottom must
 consequently be below the level of the sea.* At the
 mouth of Dease's River, the hills are five or six hundred
 feet high, and are composed principally, if not entirely,
 of dolomite, in horizontal strata. The northern shores
 of Bear Lake are low, and skirted by numerous shoals of
 limestone boulders. At the foot of the Scented Grass
 Hill, a rivulet has made a section to the depth of 100 feet,
 and there shaly beds are seen interstratified with thin
 layers of blackish-brown earthy-looking limestone, con-
 taining selenite and pyrites. Globular concretions of that
 stone, and of a poor clay ironstone, also occur in beds in the
 shale. The surfaces of the slate-clay were covered by an
 efflorescence of alum and sulphur, and many crystals of
 sulphate of iron lie at the bottom of the cliff, and several
 layers of plumose alum, half an inch in thickness, occur
 in the strata. At the base of Great Bear Mountain, the
 bituminous shale is interstratified with slate-clay, and Dr
 Richardson found embedded in the former a single piece
 of brown coal, in which the fibrous structure of wood is
 apparent.†

On the northern shore of Keith Bay, about four miles
 from Bear Lake River, stands Fort Franklin, upon a small
 terrace, which is elevated about thirty feet above the lake.
 The bottom of the bay, wherever distinguishable, was ob-
 served to be sandy, and thickly strewed with rounded pri-
 mitive boulders of great size, which were particularly abun-
 dant near the river,—and the waters of the cape formed
 by Scented Grass Hill were also strewed with large square

* In M'Tavish Bay, near the shore of Great Slave Lake, forty-
 five fathoms of line did not reach the bottom. Some of the great
 lakes of Canada are supposed to descend 300 feet below the
 "ocean's brim."

† Appendix to Franklin's Second Journey, p. 6.