

direction he was going as unnaturally bloodthirsty and cruel, sometimes asserting the existence of monsters with supernatural powers, as in the present case. The people, too, on a very large river far to the west of the Mackenzie, probably the Yukon, they described to him as monsters in size, power and cruelty.

In our own time, after all the intercourse that there has been between them and the whites, more than a suspicion of such unknown, cruel people lurks in the minds of many of the Indians. It would be futile for me to try to ascribe an origin for these fears, my knowledge of their language and idiosyncrasies being so limited.

In the fall of 1887 a whale made its way up the river to the "Ram-parts," remaining there the whole season, and, before the river froze over, it was often seen blowing. At first the Indians were afraid, but they soon became accustomed to the sight, and shot at the whale whenever it approached the shore. In the spring its dead body was beached by the ice on the west shore, seven or eight miles below Fort Good Hope, and the Indians used part of it for dog food. I enquired its dimensions from several who had seen it. They described it as about twice as long as one of their canoes and thicker through than their own height. This would mean a length of from twenty-five to twenty-eight feet. I have often heard it stated that all the channels of the Mackenzie delta are shallow, but the presence of this whale assures us that one of them, at least, is over six feet deep.

Forty-eight miles from Fort Good Hope, Sans Sault Rapid is reached. This, like the rapid at the head of the "Ramparts," is all on one side of the river, which is here a mile and a quarter wide. As I went up the west side, and the rapid is on the other, extending but little more than a third of the way across, I cannot say that I saw anything of it. I heard the roar plainly enough, but saw nothing ex-

cept a swift current. It is caused by a ledge of rocks extending partially across the river.

A ridge of hills here extend beyond the river from the Rocky Mountains, occasional glimpses of which can be caught from the water.

Just above this the Mackenzie turns sharply to the east from its southerly direction, and skirts the base of the mountains for six miles. Its course then curves a little to the south, when, what might be termed a cañon, is entered, which extends for nine or ten miles. The river here averages a mile in width, and is walled on both sides by perpendicular limestone cliffs, rising from one to two hundred feet above the water. On the south side, this wall terminates in what is known as "Wolverine Rock," which rises perpendicularly from the water to a height of about three hundred feet. The formation is limestone, the strata of which stand almost on edge, and the water has worn through them in several places, so that one can sail underneath. Above this point the mountains again approach the river for a few miles, when they suddenly drop almost to the level of the plain. The banks here are clay and gravel, with an average height of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet.

Six and one-half miles above Sans Sault Rapids, Carcajou River empties its waters into the Mackenzie from the west. This river, I believe to be the largest tributary of the Mackenzie below the Liard. An Indian with me stated that this stream was very large and very long, and that they had ascended it for great distances through the mountains. He pointed out the direction of the valley for some distance above the mouth, and it appeared to run parallel to the Mackenzie; turning sharply to the west, it was lost among the hills.

Creeping around a bend in the river, close to shore—to avoid the floating logs and driftwood, which filled it on the afternoon of the 21st of July—about