



NEEPIGON, No. 18—ISLANDS IN LAKE

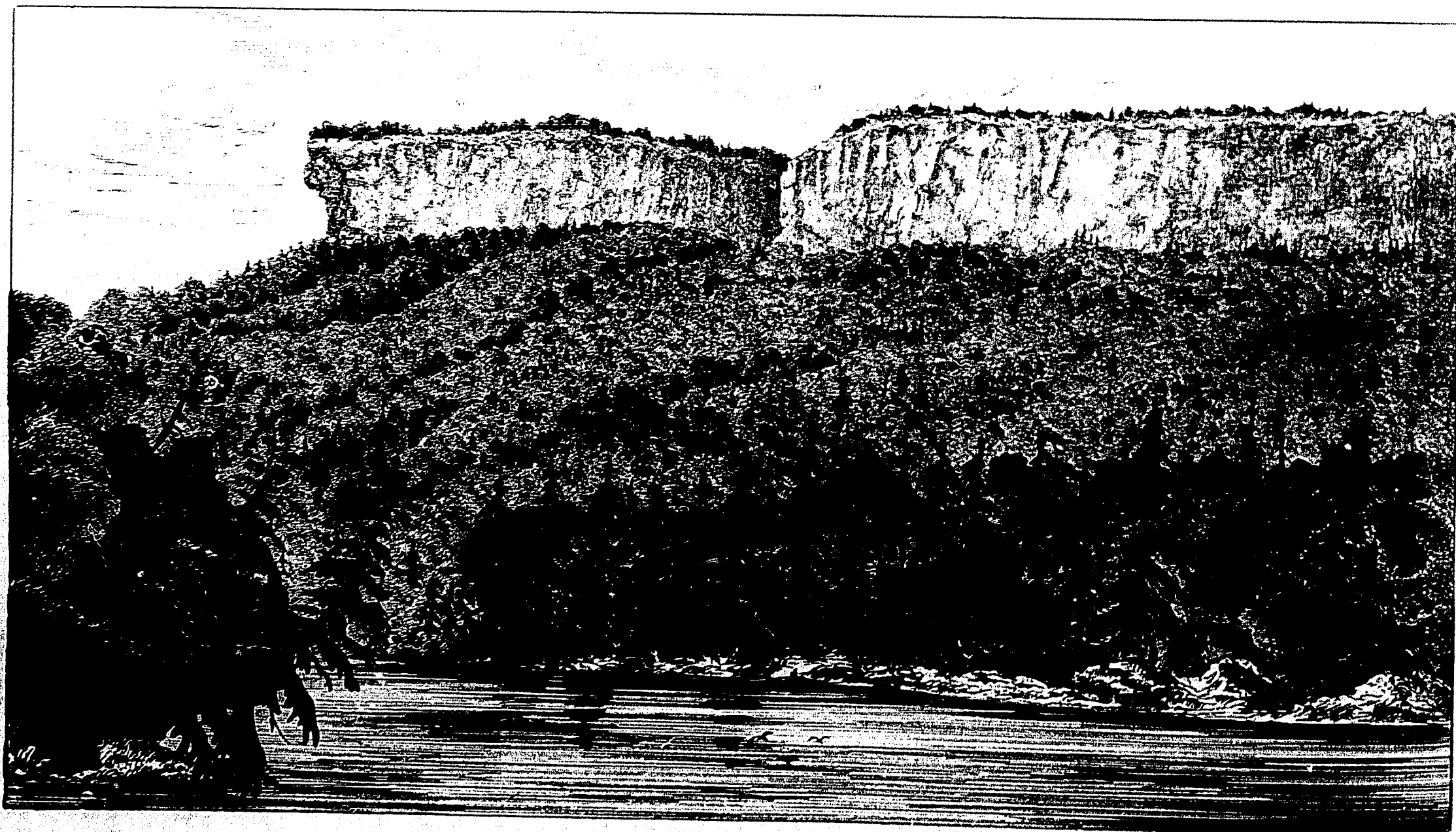
## No. 7.—THE NEEPIGON REGION.

With this issue we close our series of views of the Neepigon region. No. 16 gives a view on the Black Sturgeon River; No. 17—the mouth of the same stream, the view looking eastward and shewing the top of Isle Vert in Neepigon Bay, which towers above the water level about 800 feet high. The closing view of the series (No. 18) appropriately exhibits a View of the Islands in one part of the Lake, that near the Hudson's Bay Post and *Roche Qui Frappe*, on the North Shore, already illustrated, the aspect being north-easterly. We have already remarked upon the great number of islands in Lake Neepigon, as well as upon their variety in dimensions and general appearance. The lake abounds with fish of several kinds, the speckled trout swarming in great numbers, some of which reach 13lbs in weight. The water is clear and cold, and the lake is generally frozen over in the early part of December, the ice breaking up about the latter end of May. This gives us

the idea of nearly six months of winter, and prepares us to hear that Indian Corn will not ripen in that neighbourhood; nor even wheat except in favourable seasons. There are, however, as already mentioned, several very considerable tracts of land, the soil of which is well adapted for agricultural purposes; and as the mineral wealth of that part of Canada becomes developed, these spots of good soil will doubtless be found of great value to those who occupy them, and of much convenience to miners who may draw therefrom their supply of all kinds of vegetables, the transport of which from a great distance is either impossible or too costly to be profitable.

There has been as yet no authentic publication of the result of the labours of the explorers who, last year and this, have visited the Neepigon region. But about a year ago the following appeared in a Toronto contemporary, the *Globe*, under the title of "Important Discoveries in the North-West,"—"During the summer just closed, (1869) good work appears to have been done by the Geological survey in the Lake Superior

region. Professor Bell's party have all returned to their winter quarters, after having experienced many of the hardships and privations incident to the life of the first explorers in the distant wilderness. We understand that the results of the expedition include a complete topographical and geological survey of Lake Neepigon, and an exploration of much of the surrounding country. This lake, it appears, will rank, in point of size, with the other great lakes of the St. Lawrence, forming the sixth and last in the chain. Professor Bell has not yet been able to map the whole of his extensive survey, but thinks the area of Lake Neepigon will be found to exceed that of Lake Ontario, or even Lake Erie—some 500 miles or more of coast line having been traversed. This great lake is drained by the Neepigon river, or upward continuation of the St. Lawrence beyond Lake Superior, which is described as a very large clear-water stream, about thirty miles in length. Upwards of a dozen rivers of considerable size are reported to empty into Lake Neepigon from all sides. We understand



NEEPIGON, No. 16.—VIEW ON BLACK STURGEON RIVER. FROM A SKETCH BY W. ARMSTRONG.