

a now submerged corduroy road and we had to feel our way along the track in water that in places reached the waist. The track then led up into a wood and from it diverged on the right a doubtful and tortuous trail in the direction of Twin Lake where the Chain Fern grew.

In an evil moment our guide tried a short cut to avoid an awkward slash in the woods. He lost his way, and we floundered along for more than an hour; during this time we crossed three slashes (apparently) far worse than the one we had avoided; they were really one slash and the same; as usually happens in the bush to those who use no compass and disregard the sun, we were walking in a series of eccentric circles. We drew up at last on the edge of a creek which our guide failed to recognize as the one we had first waded across; to make confusion worse confounded, we seemed to have got somehow onto the wrong side of this creek, but how or where we had crossed it we could not make out. Following down the creek a little way we came out on a lake. Our host had then to make the humiliating confession of having gone in a circle; instead of reaching Twin Lake, (two miles above the beaver dam, we were nearly a mile below the dam. It was then so late in the afternoon that we had to postpone our expedition to next day.

This time we chose a longer but more certain route and reached the colony of *Woodwardia virginica* without mishap. The first sight of this fern was quite impressive; the fronds stood rigid and erect, in long lines, all facing one way; the upper surface of the frond faced the water, the backs were away from the lake and most of them heavily fruiting; I do not mean to imply that the water caused their direction of growth; it was probably sunlight, as it was more open towards the water and shaded behind by the edge of the woods.

The fern is about as large as a medium-sized Cinnamon Fern and its pinnules are very similar in shape; the veins, however, are not free but areolate, forming a network; in the barren fronds the pinnules are seen to be minutely serrulate, but in the fruiting fronds the edge is apparently smooth and entire; this is due to the serrulate edge being reflexed; if you look at the under side of a fruiting pinnule, you will find the edge distinctly rimmed. The only other noticeable difference in shape between the frond of the Chain Fern and that of the Cinnamon Fern is that in the former the frond is narrowed considerably towards the base and above is lanceolate up to an acute tip; this character is repeated and even emphasized (as so often) in the pinna, which is strongly contracted in one or two pairs of pinnules at the more or less sessile base. The peculiar fruiting is, of course, unmistakable: the oblong sori running in parallel lines like the links of a chain