

the Natives. It is a sheet of water about forty miles in length, by three to five miles in width; the land all around it, sometimes showing cliffs, but in most places rising gently to about the height of one hundred feet, everywhere having fine forests of Birch Aspens and several kinds of Pine: the Trading House in Latitude  $54^{\circ} 40'$  N. Longitude  $101^{\circ} 30'$  west of Greenwich. The Thermometer was made by Dolland and divided to 102 degrees below Zero. This section of the Stony Region is called the Musk Rat Country and contains an area of about 22,360 square miles, of which, full two fifths of this surface is Rivers and Lakes, having phenomena distinct from the dry, elevated, distant, interior countries. The Natives are Nahathaway Indians, whose fathers from time beyond any tradition, have hunted in these Lands; in conversing with them on their origin, they appear never to have turned their minds to this subject; and [think] that mankind and the animals are in a constant state of succession; and the time of their great grandfathers is the extent of their actual knowledge of times past; their tradition of the Deluge and of the Rainbow I have already mentioned; yet their stories all refer to times when Men were much taller and stronger than at present, the animals more numerous, and many could converse with mankind, particularly, the Bear, Beaver, Lynx and Fox. Writers on the North American Indians always write as comparing them, with themselves who are all men of education, and of course [the Indians] lose by comparison; this is not fair; let them be compared with those who are uneducated in Europe, yet even in this comparison the Indian has the disadvantage in not having the light of Christianity. Of course his moral character has not the firmness of christian morality, but in practice he is

just at the foot of a low escarpment of limestone which rises to the south of it. Except on the south side the rock underlying the surrounding country is granite, but overlying the granite in many places is a moderate thickness of good clay soil.