

it advisable to take advantage of it and to continue the voyage all night, in order to make up for the time we had lost during the day.

We accordingly proceeded, but towards midnight the wind died away. The circumstance, however, did not alter the determination of the conductor. The men were ordered to the oars and notwithstanding they had labored hard during the preceding day and had no rest, yet they were kept closely at work until daybreak, except for one hour, during which they were allowed to stop to cook their provisions.

Where there is a gentle current as in this part of the river the Canadians will work at the oars many hours without intermission; they seem to think it no hardship to be employed in this instance the whole night; on the contrary, they plied as vigorously as if they had but just set out, singing merrily the whole time. The French Canadians have generally a good ear for music and sing duets with tolerable accuracy. They have one very favorite duet amongst them called the "rowing duet," which as they sing they mark time to do with each stroke of the oar; indeed, when rowing in smooth water they mark the time of most of the airs they sing in the same manner.

About eight o'clock the next and eighth morning of our voyage, we entered the last lake before coming to that of Ontario, called The Lake of a Thousand Islands, on account of the multiplicity of them, which it contains.

Many of these islands are scarcely larger than a bateau, and none of them, except such as are situated at the upper and lower extremities of the lake, appearing to contain more than fifteen English acres each. They are all covered with wood even to the smallest. The trees on these last are smaller in their growth, but the larger islands produce as fine timber as will be found on the main shores of the lake. Many of these islands are situated so close together that it would be easy to throw a pebble from one to the other. Notwithstanding which circumstance, the passage between them is perfectly safe and commodious for bateaux and between some of them that are even thus close to each other is water sufficient for a frigate. The water is uncommonly clear as it is in every part of the river from Lake St. Francis upwards. Between that lake and the Ottawa river downwards it is discolored, as I have before observed, by passing over beds of marl.

The shore of all these islands under our notice are rocky, most of them rise very boldly and some exhibit perpendicular masses of rock towards the water, upwards of twenty