

Returning to Penetanguishine, the party coasted round to the Manitoulin Island, where they witnessed the annual dole of presents to the congregated Indians. From this they repaired to the Sault St. Mary, at which place they met a gentleman in the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company, who warned them against the dangers of their contemplated expedition. He stated that it would be most perilous for them to attempt to penetrate into the interior, except under the special auspices of the Company. In conclusion he strongly counselled them to retrace their steps, and offered to furnish them with a letter to Sir George Simpson the Governor of the Company, who he was convinced would afford our artist every facility for the accomplishment of his view.

Acting upon this advice, Kane and his companion went in their canoe a short distance up Lake Superior, and returning visited Mackinaw, where they were present when 2600 Indians were convened to receive the price of some lands sold by them to the government of the United States. From thence our artist voyaged up Fox River in the Manomance country, where he camped for twenty-two days with 3000 Indians, assembled on a business similar to that immediately above-mentioned.

After taking numerous sketches, Kane retraced his course to Winnebago, where the party left their canoe, and proceeded on foot to Sheboygan, a journey of sixty miles. At this point they took the steamer for Buffalo, and finally reached Toronto late in the fall, having during the trip, paddled upwards of sixteen hundred miles.

In the ensuing March the enthusiastic painter repaired to Lachine, to seek an interview with Sir George Simpson. Having met with that gentlemen, he exhibited to him the sketches which he had made, and explained the nature of the object which he had in view. Sir George entered cordially into his plans, and in order to facilitate them, kindly offered to give him a passage in the spring brigade of canoes.

Accordingly on the 9th of May, 1846, Kane left Toronto in company with Governor Simpson for the Sault St. Mary, in order to

embark in the brigade of canoes, which had left Lachine some time previously, taking the route of the Ottawa and Lake Huron.

Reaching Mackinaw in the evening, they were informed by the master of the steam boat, that she would not leave until 9 o'clock next morning. Trusting to this assurance, our artist went on shore for the night; but on coming down to the wharf on the following day at the appointed time, found that the vessel had departed about twenty minutes previously. This was indeed a damper of no ordinary magnitude, as should he fail in seeing Sir George before he left the Sault, he would not be able to accompany the canoe caravan. He was aware, likewise, that the Governor would not remain longer than a few hours, but how to overtake him was the difficulty, as no boat would leave for four days.

Determined, however, not to be disappointed in his proposed expedition, if it was within the reach of human possibility to remedy matters, he used every exertion to procure a mode of conveyance. Walking along the beach he saw a small skiff lying, and having found the owner enquired if he could hire it, and whether there was any chance of procuring a crew. The man strongly advised him not to attempt such a perilous voyage as it was blowing hard, and that it was not in mortal power to reach the Sault by day light next morning. Our artist was determined however to make the attempt, and at length succeeded in chartering the skiff, and engaging a crew consisting of three boys, the oldest being under nineteen years of age. It must be added that they were all well acquainted with boating. The striplings held out no hopes of being able to accomplish the undertaking within the given time, and were only induced to make the attempt by the offer of a high reward.

Thus in a tiny skiff with a blanket for a sail, and a single loaf of bread along with a little tea and sugar for stores, the party launched out in the vexed lake to make a traverse of forty miles.

The wind being favourable the boating (as the Germans would say) shot a head with tremendous rapidity, but the danger was eminent and continuous from the moment