

All the operations were finished, and we left the woods by 25th November, at which time the snow was about two feet deep.

I now proceed to relate the operations of Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon.

They arrived at the Grand Falls with the instruments on the 18th June, and commenced their observations immediately.

They were to establish differences of longitude between the following stations :—

1. Grand Falls.
2. Mouth of the Madawaska River.
3. Mouth of the St. Francis.
4. Outlet of Lake Pohenagamook.
5. Mouth of the Great Black River.
6. Point on the North-West Branch.

The observations have occupied the whole season. Six interchanges of chronometers were obtained between each pair of stations, and the results have been, I understand, very satisfactory.

In all this the British astronomers worked alone. Major Graham did not come up till late in the season, in consequence of domestic affliction. In fact, he had already the previous year done much of that which we had to do this season. He might, therefore, be considered in advance of us.

The last change of station for astronomical observations was that of Captain Robinson, from the mouth of the St. Francis to the point on the St. John where the second line cut by the American party intersects that river.

He arrived there after a very difficult journey; the weather had become extremely cold; he had to encounter severe snow storms; ice formed on the men's poles as they worked; in fact they suffered a good deal.

Shortly after Captain Robinson arrived at his station the river became unnavigable, and, consequently, no further communication could take place between him and Lieutenant Pipon, who remained at his station at the mouth of the Black River.

They built themselves log-houses, and waited for the ice on the river to become strong enough to bear a sleigh.

During this time Captain Robinson had the American ten mile line measured accurately. His measurement differs from that of the American party. They make it 10 miles and 110 feet; whereas, by his measurement it is 10 miles and 363 feet. In shortening it, however, as I do not propose to insist upon great exactness, there will be no difficulty in satisfying both sides.

To conclude, then, that which relates to the astronomical operations, I am glad to be able to say, that in about ten weeks after the arrival of Captain Robinson at his station, *i.e.*, about the 10th January, the river froze sufficiently to admit of the interchange of the chronometers by sleighs. One comparison had been effected at the beginning of last week.

We shall, I hope, shortly have the means of calculating the direction of the long south-west line between Lake Pohenagamook and the North-West Branch. As soon as that is the case Captain Robinson and Lieutenant Pipon will leave the woods.

I may here be permitted to call the attention of your Lordship to the perseverance of these two officers, who have continued observations, requiring skill and delicacy, through very severe weather; and during the night, the thermometer ranging as low as 25° below zero.

The Sappers attached to the Commission will remain in the woods, and taking advantage of the frozen state of the rivers and lakes they will carry surveys along their courses as far from their log-huts as the weather and climate will permit.

I have now related all the operations of the Commission up to the present time.

It may, perhaps, be convenient that I should detail to your Lordship the organisation by which these operations have been carried on.

Proposing to make each officer efficient by himself and able alone to