

Ever since our discovery of the Pelly in 1840, various conjectures were hazarded as to what river it really was, and where it entered the sea. Fort Youcon was, I think, established in 1847, from Peel River near the mouth of the Mackenzie. From the first I expressed my belief, in which hardly any one concurred, that the Pelly and the Youcon were identical. In 1850, having obtained Sir George Simpson's permission, I explored the lower river, descending a distance of about 1,200 miles and by reaching Fort Youcon, proved the correctness of my opinion.

From Fort Youcon I directed my boat and party upwards into the Porcupine River. I was accompanied by Mr. Murray, who was conveying the returns, and whose duty it was to take back with him the Youcon outfit from La Pierre's House at the head of the Porcupine River, to which point supplies were transported over the mountains in winter by dog-sleighs from Peel River. La Pierre's House duly reached, we left our boat there and walked over the mountains to Peel River, about ninety miles; thence by boat we as-

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