

uncertainty and difficulty, we continued on the same course until the river gradually contracted, when for about a mile it formed a line of dangerous rapids. Captain Back and myself, with four men, landed for the purpose of lightening the boat; when the rest of the party launched into the stream: and although the same precautions were used here as elsewhere, the rush and whirl of the water were so powerful, that the boat was twice nearly plunged into one or other of the gulfs formed in the hollows of the rapid. In the short space of a few yards, might be seen a fall, rapid, and eddy, as singular as they were dangerous; while the power of the water far exceeded what had been witnessed before. To avoid such imminent danger required no ordinary nerve. So inured to peril, however, were the men, that notwithstanding the boat was turned completely round, they guided it stern foremost through this frightful abyss without incurring any other accident than the breaking of one of the oars. It was very properly called Escape Rapid; for during the whole voyage