

search for furs. These surveys extended northward as far as Reindeer lake and westward to the east end of Lake Athabasca, where he connected with the survey previously made by his tutor, Mr. Turner.

The year in which he made this latter survey would seem to have been a poor one for fur returns, and his superior officer in the company probably thought he had neglected the fur trade in the interest of exploration, so he gave orders that the surveying must be discontinued. This Thompson refused to agree to, and as his second term of engagement was expiring, he withdrew from the service of the Hudson Bay Company and entered that of the North-West Company, which was particularly anxious at the time to have the position of its trading-posts determined. This was on May 23, 1797, the following entry being written in his journal of this date: "This day left the service of the Hudson Bay Company, and entered that of the Company of the Merchants from Canada. May God Almighty prosper me." Thus for the sake of a trifling shortage in the fur returns for the year, the Hudson Bay Company lost the greatest man it ever had in its employ, a man whose name will be a household word with educated men and women in America long after all the fur traders and their beaver-skins have been forgotten. On May 28 he arrived on foot at the house of Mr. Alex. Fraser, at the head of Reindeer river, where he was very hospitably entertained by this partner in the North-West Company. He at once proceeded from Reindeer lake to Grand Portage on Lake Superior, making as usual a survey of the route which he followed. Here he received his instructions, and made final arrangements for his future work. The explorations of the next year are worth following in some detail, as they show what such a man could do under reasonably favourable circumstances.

On August 9 he left the "Grand Portage," at the mouth of Pigeon river on Lake Superior, in company with Mr. Hugh McGillis, and descended Rainy river, passing a fort at the Falls on the 21st, went on through Rainy lake and Lake of the Woods to Lake Winnipeg, which he reached on September 1. Crossing this lake and ascending the Dauphin river, he reached Lake Manito (Manitoba) on September 10. He crossed this lake, and reached Lake Winnipegosis by way of the Meadow portage. On September 17, being camped  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the Little Dauphin (Mossy) river, provisions were received from Fort Dauphin, on or near Dauphin lake.

On September 17, having received provisions from Fort Dauphin, the party proceeded northward up the west shore of Lake Winnipegosis. On the 19th, Mr. Hugh McGillis left him to go up Red Deer river, while he himself reached the mouth of Shoal river. He ascended this river, passed through Swan lake, and ascended Swan river for 44 miles to Swan River house, on the north bank of the river, which would place it near the north line of Tp. 39 in lat.  $52^{\circ} 24' 5''$  N. The Hudson's