

a north west gale, which did not allow the Brigade before us to proceed ; and I told the Guide, that early the next morning we should see them ; these Guides have charge of conducting the march and are all proud of coming up to the canoes ahead of them, and by dawn of day we entered the Lake now calm, and as the day came on us, saw the Brigade that were before us, only one Mile ahead of us. The Guide and the men shouted with joy, and when we came up to them told them of my wonderful predictions, and that I had pointed out every place they had slept at, and all by looking at the Stars ; one party seemed delighted in being credulous, the other in exaggeration ; such are ignorant men, who never give themselves a moments reflection. The fact is Jean Baptiste will not think, he is not paid for it ; when he has a minute's respite he smokes his pipe, his constant companion and all goes well ; he will go through hardships, but requires a belly full, at least once a day, good Tobacco to smoke, a warm Blanket, and a kind Master who will take his share of hard times and be the first in danger. Naval and Military Men are not fit to command them in distant countries, neither do they place confidence in one of themselves as a leader ; they always prefer an Englishman, but they ought always to be kept in constant employment however light it may be.

Having passed eight winters in different parts of this Stony Region, and as many open Seasons in discovering part of it's many Rivers and Lakes, and surveying them ; and as the productions, the mode and manner of subsistence is everywhere the same ; to prevent repetition I shall confine myself to a central position, for the phenomena of the climate, and every thing else worth attention ; This place is [called] the Reed Lake<sup>1</sup> (Peepeequoonuskoo Sakahagan) by

<sup>1</sup> The trading post at this lake was built in 1794 by Thompson for the Hudson's Bay Company ; and in it he spent the following winter. Later, he spent the winter of 1805-06 not far from the same place while trading for the North-West Company. The lake, which has an area of 85 square miles, is situated in the forest area north of the Saskatchewan river, and