

bays of the east, north, and south coasts, it appears, might be easily established. The chief obstacles to be overcome, as far as regards the mere way, seem to lie in crossing the mountain belt of twenty or forty miles wide on which we stood, in order to reach the open low interior. The nucleus of this belt is exhibited in the form of a semi-circular chain of insulated passes and round-backed granite hills, generally lying N.E. and S.W. of each other in the rear of Bonavista, Trinity, Placentia, and Fortune Bays. To the southward of us, in the direction of Piper's Hole in Placentia Bay, one of these conical hills, very conspicuous, I named "Mount Clarence." Our view extended more than forty miles in all directions, the high land, it has already been observed, bounded the low interior in the west. We descended into the bosom of the interior. The plains which shone so brilliantly are steppes or savannas composed of fine black compact peat mould, formed by the growth and decay of mosses. They are in the form of extensive, gently undulating beds, stretching northward and southward, with running waters and lakes, skirted with woods lying between them. Their yellow-green surfaces are sometimes uninterrupted by either tree or shrub, rock or any irregularity, for more than ten miles. They are chequered everywhere upon the surface by deep beaten deer-paths, and are in reality magnificent natural deer parks, adorned with wood and water. Our progress over the savanna country was attended with great labor and consequently slow, being at the rate of from five to seven miles a day to the westward, while the distance walked was equivalent to three or four times as much. Always inclining our course to the westward we traversed in every direction, partly from choice in order to view and examine the country, and partly from the necessity to get round the extremities of lakes and woods, and to look for game for subsistence. We were nearly a month in passing