

sionally, of some American lumberers; and that our endeavours to procure from any quarter, correct topographical information of the interior of the disputed territory were unavailing, the most superficial and contradictory opinions being entertained upon the frontiers as to the sources of the streams, and as to the direction in which it would be most advisable to push our investigations, with a due regard to that economy of time which we were compelled to observe. This wilderness, thus situated, had never, we believe, been crossed in the direction it was necessary for us to take, by persons capable of describing the country with anything approaching to accuracy; and, consequently, all the maps which we had seen, proved in the end remarkably defective. Indeed, had we not been so fortunate as to engage in our service two intelligent Indians, who had become somewhat familiar with the country, by having frequently made it the scene of their hunting grounds, and whose rude maps traced upon sheets of the bark of the birch tree served often to guide us, a great portion of our time might have been lost in cutting our communications through forests and almost-impenetrable swamps, upon injudicious courses, for the purpose of transporting our provisions, instruments, and canoes. Thus engaged, we had not only to keep in view the main object of your Lordship's instructions, but to bring the general topography of the country into a more accurate form, in order that the map to be made, to accompany this Report, might be an intelligent exponent of the physical geography of the country. This became an important branch of our undertaking, which had to be applied to the whole area between the Bay of Chaleurs and the south-western sources of the St. John; from thence, north-westwardly to the Highlands claimed by the United States as the Highlands of the Treaty of 1783, in $46^{\circ} 27'$; and eastwardly, from thence, at various points of the Highlands thus claimed by the United States, as far as the waters running into Lake Metis, in north latitude 48° . This last point was reached at the setting in of the winter season; and the party on that service had but just completed their observations, when they were compelled to hasten to the coast by very rigorous weather, ice having formed on the lakes and streams.

We have troubled your Lordship with these remarks and incidents, not for the purpose of showing that our duty was accompanied with a greater degree of personal inconvenience than was contemplated by us on accepting the charge we have been honoured with, but to account, in some measure, for the delay in the sending in of our Report. Your Lordship will please further to understand, that after our return to Fredericton, in New Brunswick, with the various information acquired under such circumstances as we have described, a great part of that information had to be applied to such Surveys of the northern parts of the Province of New Brunswick as existed in the Crown Land Office at Fredericton, in such manner as that, by transferring the results of our labours to the accurate outlines of the official surveys, a map worthy of the public confidence might be constructed; and that in consequence of its being enjoined upon us in our instructions, to return to England when the season should no longer permit us to continue our operations, we entrusted the task of filling up the outlines of the official surveys, to an intelligent person belonging to the Crown Land Office, who had been in our service in the capacity of Surveyor and Commissary;* but the final result of his labours, owing to circumstances beyond his controul, and to adverse winds, arrived in England a month later than the period it was expected, and it has been only by using unremitting diligence, that we have been able to prepare the comprehensive map herewith submitted with this Report.

Before we enter upon a description of the physical geography of the disputed territory, we deem it important to call your Lordship's attention to the reasons which have induced us to defer the consideration of that portion of our Report, until we have brought under your observation other matters, the previous and well understanding of which, appears necessary to the perfect illustration of the true intent and meaning of the IInd Article of the Treaty of 1783; which Article we find no difficulty in reconciling with the natural features of the country.

* Mr. John Wilkinson.