

Monday, 20th.—Went early this morning to Pointe au Pic, and launched the canoe, but were obliged to haul it up again, as it began to rain, and the wind blew too hard for us to proceed. We passed the day at Pointe au Pic, and towards evening it blew a hurricane. The Thermometer stood at 63, 76, and 62 °.

Tuesday, 21st.—At 9 A. M. embarked in the Canoe, with my two men, provisions, &c. and at 3 P. M. at Port au Persil, or MacLaren's settlement. We put up here for the night. At this place there are only four houses; Mr. M'Leod has a fine Saw Mill here. I had some conversation with several men who have been employed for several years in hauling Timber to the Saw Mill; but they knew nothing of the country below Rivière Noire, except that it was all over mountainous. Thermometer, 67, 89 and 71 °.

Wednesday, 22nd—Left Port au Persil at 8 A. M. and went into the Bay of Port au Quilles. Here we stowed our provisions away in an old fishing hut, and placed the canoe in safety in the bush. This Bay is one league below Rivière Noire, and two from Port au Persil. We then entered the bush, along the Little River. The hills are very high. We continued going up hill till 6 P. M. when we encamped by the side of a little brook which just afforded water enough for our use. From this spot we could not see the St. Lawrence, but the interior is visible for a great distance. From Port au Quilles to this, the hills are poorly stocked with wood; there are a few maples trees, here and there, and some scattered pines and cedars of inferior quality; birch, spruce and fir are the most common; the brushwood is thickly intertwined, and of different sorts: what little soil there is is good, but for one foot of it, there are ten of stones or rocks. Thermometer, 65, 83, and 75 °.

Thursday, 23rd—Started at 6 A. M. towards the interior. Descended into a deep valley, much encumbered with fallen trees and brushwood. After which we ascended a high mountain whence we discerned seven small lakes. Round about these lakes there is a small extent of level land, overgrown with stunted spruce, birch, &c. We passed between these lakes: the largest is not more than a league in circumference. About a league beyond the last of them, we came to a high and naked mountain, which we ascended, and from the top could see the hills of the Saguenay. We descended on the north side, and encamped for the night at the foot of it, on the bank of a little brook, of good water,