

may be judged of from the fact that he spent four mouths of incessant toil in accomplishing his undertaking; and only a man of iron nerves and unflinching courage could have performed the task. He and his attendant Indian took almost no provision with them, and supported themselves on the game they were able to bring down with their guns, encamping each night in the Indian fashion. During the first ten days of the journey they struggled on through dense forests of pine, fir, birch and larch, at intervals crossing marshes of peat covered with grasses, rushes, etc., their course being due west, and a constant ascent from the coast. In some of the forests the *Kalmia angustifolia* covers whole acres, presenting a most brilliant appearance; and in the woods, the jay, the *Corvus Canadensis*, the titmouse, and woodpecker were heard, and the loud notes of the loon made the lakes musical at night. At length the dense black forest was left behind, and the travellers found themselves on the summit of a great ridge, covered with scattered trees, reindeer moss, and loaded with partridge and whortle berries. Coveys of grouse rose in all directions, and snipe from every marsh. The birds of passage, ducks and geese, were flying to and fro from their breeding places in the interior; tracks of deer, of wolves fearfully large, of bears, foxes and martins, were seen everywhere. The scene, on looking back toward the sea-coast, was magnificent. Says the enthusiastic explorer:

In the westward, to our inexpressible delight, the interior broke in sublimity before us. What a contrast did this present to the conjecture entertained of Newfoundland! The hitherto mysterious interior lay unfolded before us, a boundless scene, emerald surface, a vast basin. The eye strides again and again over a succession of northerly and southerly ranges of green plains, marbled with woods and lakes of every form and extent, a picture of all the luxurious scenes of national cultivation, receding into invisibleness. The imagination hovers in the distance, and clings involuntarily to the undulating horizon of vapour, far in the west, until it is lost. A new world seemed to invite us onward, or rather we claimed the dominion and were impatient to proceed and take possession. Primitiveness, omnipotence and tranquillity were stamped upon everything so forcibly that the mind is hurled back thousands of years. Our view extended more than forty miles in all directions. No high land bounded the low interior to the west. We now descended into the bosom of the interior. The plains which shone so brilliantly are steppes or savannas in the form of extensive gentle undulating beds stretching northward and southward, with running waters and lakes, skirted with woods, lying between