

or nine Canadians, who are said to manage them with greater dexterity than any other people."

"The whole squadron, which consists of thirty canoes, is divided into three brigades. One or two Guides or Pilots are attached to each brigade. Their business is to point out the best course up and down the streams and through the lakes, and to take charge of the canoes and property on board. They attend to the repairs of the canoes, which are frequently broken, and have the same command over the men attached to their respective brigades, as the commander of a vessel has over the men on board. The Voyageurs, as the men are called, have many of the customs of sailors; and among them the following:

"By all those on board who have never passed certain places, they expect to be treated with something to drink; and should a person refuse to comply with their requisitions, he would be sure of being plunged into the water, which they profanely call, baptizing him. To avoid such a disaster, I gave the people of my canoe a few bottles of spirits and porter, by drinking which they became very merry, and exhibited the reverse of their appearance a few days since, when, with heavy hearts and weeping eyes, they parted from their relations."

Chute au Blondeau.—"We have a strong head wind. But, since yesterday morning we have come nearly sixty miles, and have passed two rapids. At these places, most of the property was taken out of the canoes and carried across the portages on the backs of the people. The young men, who have never been in the Indian countries, now began to regret that they had enlisted into this service, which requires them, as they say, to carry burdens like horses, when, by remaining in their own country, they might have labored like men."

The Three Kettles.—"In the former part of the day, we passed a beautiful waterfall, where the Riviere au Rideau, or Curtain River, falls into this, which is the Ottawa River. The former is ten or twelve rods wide, and the water falls perpendicularly, about forty feet, presenting at a little distance, an appearance at once pleasing and grand."

"The Canadian Voyageurs, when they leave one stream to go up or down another, have a custom of pulling off their hats, and making the sign of the cross, upon which one in each canoe, or, at least, in each brigade, repeats a short prayer. The same ceremonies are observed by them whenever they pass a place where anyone has been interred, and a cross has been erected. Those, therefore, who are in the habit of voyaging this way are obliged to say their prayers more frequently perhaps, than when at home; for at almost every rapid