

in the latter part of August. Hay, for the winter provender of milch cows that are kept at Fort Simpson, is made upon meadows and marshes about the fort, and is rafted down in boats in September.

"I was very agreeably surprised," says a writer who was long in the service of the Company, and 25 years resident in the country, "to find that the high latitude of this locality (61° N. latitude) did not prevent agricultural operations from being carried on with success. Although the season had been rather unfavourable, the farm yielded 400 bushels of potatoes and upwards of 100 bushels of barley. The barn-yard with its stacks of barley and hay, and the number of horned cattle around it, had quite the air of a farm standing in the 'old country.' It is to be regretted that so little attention should have been paid to the cultivation of the soil in former times, as the produce would, ere now, not only have contributed to the support of the establishment, but have afforded assistance to the natives in years of scarcity."

Mackenzie has left an amusing account of the fabulous horrors with which the natives endeavoured to deter him from prosecuting his noble voyages of discovery; of their tales of many winters elapsing, and old age coming upon him, ere he could reach the sea; of fearful torrents and impracticable falls; of evil spirits and terrific monsters of demoniac shape.

Precisely similar idle tales were once rife about the Saguenay, and indeed have lingered round every part of British territory in America. In truth, however, steamboats could ascend the Mackenzie as far as the carrying places upon Slave River; and vessels of considerable burden freely navigate its waters. The channels formed by the large delta at the entrances and exits to and from the lakes require to be kept clear, and the driftwood prevented from obstructing the channels, as it has a tendency to do. Indeed, several of the minor rapids originate in this cause.

The river of the Mountains consists of two principal branches, flowing from the N. and S. respectively, and both rising beyond the highest peaks of the mountains through which they flow. The Dease river, a branch of the N.W. stream, is the channel by which boats pass through the mountains to the junction of the Pelly, Lewes, and Frances rivers, where the Company have a post, between 1300 and 1400 feet above the level of the sea. Two voyages are annually made between this station, called Pelly Banks, and Lynn Canal, an inlet N. of the island of Sitka, in lat. 59° , and to which steamers of the Hudson's Bay Company ply. It was by this route that Sir John Richardson received the first intelligence of the general emigration to California, in consequence of the discovery of the gold mines, which almost emptied the thinly-peopled territories of the Hudson's Bay Company. Although these rivers are