

romantic or tragic traditions purporting to refer to their origin. A portion of the island, containing about one thousand acres, has been dedicated by Congress as a national park, but what progress has been made in its improvement is not within the present knowledge of the writer. A glance at the map will show the adjacent islands, while boating and fishing will suggest themselves as appropriate pastimes. The distance from Mackinac to New York city is one thousand and fifty-six miles, and from Detroit and Chicago about three hundred and fifty miles each.

LAKE SUPERIOR.

The water route to lake Superior, from whichever direction chosen, involves the passage of the river St. Mary through its course of between forty and fifty miles, with its lakelets, bays, islands, and rapids, of which latter the "Sault" holds the imperial position. The falls or rapids of St. Mary, or, if we have the French orthography correct, the Sault de Ste Marie, vulgarly called the "Soo," has a history coeval with the early French explorations, and a celebrity which is at least national. It is a succession of rapids extending a distance of about a mile, with a fall of about eighteen feet, the passage of vessels being possible only through the canal, which has three locks, with a lift of about six feet each. The chief natural features of lake Superior as regards scenery, are the purity of its waters, its rocky bed, its rugged, uneven and rocky coasts, its hilly or mountainous elevations, its water-falls, its islands, and its clear, crisp, and bracing air. Among the leading objects of interest that the enterprise of man has developed, are its minerals, and the methods of securing and working them.

A very clever writer, Mr. John R. St. John, in a small work published in 1846, gives quite a detailed account of the lake Superior country, and of the coasting and pastimes thereabout; though it will borne in mind that at that time the Sault canal was not in existence, and there were but few vessels on the lake, and no railroads in the vicinity. The tonnage is thus summarised in the work mentioned: "A steamboat, large, staunch, commodious, and safe; a propeller with all these qualities also, and a number of very convenient schooners, as will be seen by the list of vessels on lake Superior." The writer had this, also, to say: "To the traveler for pleasure, let me say a few words. When you shall have read the round upon which I have taken the coaster, you will probably shrink from the toils of following the shore, and wish to go direct, and quick, from place to place, or tarry a time at one place and then go to another—in either case there will be ample provision next season. * * If you are in pursuit of pleasure, whether lady or gentleman, you can find it in the lake Superior region, provided you can be pleased with grand scenery, water-falls, lakes and mountains. You can ramble in search of agates and carnelians, in which, of all I have seen engaged, I have never known one to tire of the amusement. * * Or, tired of this, you can wander away with hook and line, to the bright and beautiful lakes that lie among the hills; or take your gun, for

The Pigeon and the Pheasant's there,
The wild Duck, and the timid Hare—

but no snakes! I have never heard of any in the country. Or take a bark canoe, which two or three trials will make you at home in, for they are much easier to get the 'hang' of, than most persons suppose; go to the adjacent islands, run into the caverns and grottos, which cannot be reached in any other way. You may find rare agates there after a gale, and when you return keep along the shore and