

water, which rushes bodily half-way across the Mackenzie, and preserves its distinctive character for several miles before it mingles with the main stream. The name applied to this river by the people at Fort Wrigley was "*La rivière du vieux grand lac.*" It is said to flow out of a lake of considerable extent, lying not far from the Mackenzie. Many peaks can be seen up its valley.

Six hundred and twenty-four miles from Fort McPherson brings us to Fort Wrigley. This post was formerly known as "Little Rapid," but has received the name it now bears in honor of Chief Commissioner Wrigley, of the Hudson's Bay Company. Just above the fort there is a swift rush of water over some limestone rock which appears to extend across the river. On the west side two small islands confine a part of the stream in a funnel-like channel, which, being shallow, causes a slight rapid, and gives rise to the former name of the post.

At Fort Wrigley, some slight attempts had been made at cultivation, but I do not consider them a fair test of the capabilities of the place. When I was there, the people were gathering blueberries, then fully ripe, and as large and well-flavored as they are in Ontario. Ripe strawberries were found on the 9th August ninety miles below this, and a few raspberries soon afterwards. Above Fort Wrigley, wild gooseberries, and both red and black currants were found in abundance, some of the islands being literally covered with the bushes. The gooseberries were large and well-flavored, and the currants would compare favor-

ably with the same fruit as cultivated in the vicinity of Ottawa, the black currants being especially large and mellow. This was in the middle of August, in latitude 63°.

For about sixty miles below Fort Wrigley a range of mountains runs parallel to the river on its east side. They are in many places so close to it that the foot-hills come down to the water, especially near the fort; but just above this point they turn away eastward. Above Fort Wrigley the east bank is generally low and swampy, but the west (although low near the river) gradually rises to a height of seven or eight hundred feet. Fifty-eight miles above Fort Wrigley this hill terminates in a bold, high point, and the ridge turns off to the southwest, enclosing a deep, wide valley between it and the mountains, which here approach the river. This range continues south-eastward out of sight. The positions and heights of some of the peaks were determined by triangulation. One of them was found to



EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FORT SIMPSON.
Bishop's Residence in Back-ground.

rise 4,675 feet above the river.

We arrived at Fort Simpson on Friday, the 24th of August, and remained until the following Tuesday. The Hudson's Bay Company has here a large plot of ground, planted with potatoes, turnips, onions, and other