

the begining of the year 1767, and finding my progress to the westward thus retarded, I determined to direct my course northward. I took this step with a view of finding a communication from the heads of the Mississippi into Lake Superior, in order to meet, at the grand Portage on the North-west side of that lake, the traders that usually come, about this season, from Michillimackinac. Of these I intended to purchase goods, and then to pursue my journey from that quarter, by way of the lakes du Pluys, Dubois, and Ounipique to the heads of the river of the west, which, as I have said before, falls into the Straits of Annian, the termination of my intended progress.

I accomplished the former part of my design, and reached lake Superior in proper time; but unluckily the traders I met there, acquainted, as it was, that they had no goods to spare; those they had with them being barely sufficient to answer their own demands in these remote parts. Thus disappointed a second time, I found myself obliged to return to the place from whence I began my expedition, which I did after continuing some months on the north and east borders of Lake Superior, and exploring the bay and rivers that empty themselves into this large body of water.

As it may be expected that I should lay before the public the reasons that these discoveries, of so much importance to every one who has any connections with America, have not been imparted to them before, notwithstanding they were made upwards of ten years ago, I will give them to the world in a plain and candid manner, and without mingling with them any complaints on account of the ill treatment I have received.

On my arrival in England, I presented a petition to his majesty in council, praying for a reimbursement of those sums I had expended in the service of government. This was referred to the lords commissioners of trade and plantations. Their lordships, from the tenor of it thought the intelligence I could give, of so much importance to the nation, that they ordered me to appear before the board. This message I obeyed, and underwent a long examination, much I believe to the satis-