

land, still at the period we allude to (1765) some remains of it existed. We have already seen that Mr. H. had, at his outset, been subjected to vexatious delay and inconvenience, in waiting for this licence, and although he could now obtain one with more facility, still it was necessary to do so. There did not now exist so many reasons for denying licences as there were on the former occasion—the country was in a more settled state; the hostile feelings of the Indians toward the English had been soothed down into a state of tranquillity, while the good treatment they had received from the latter, had gained the affections of these savage nations, and guaranteed the safety of any Englishman who might visit their territories. The facility of obtaining these licenses was farther increased, by the power of granting them being now invested in the military commandants of the different Forts; a measure which rendered it unnecessary to make application to the head of the Government.

Mr. H. still viewing with the eye of a merchant the great advantages which this trade held out, notwithstanding the hardships and dangers he had suffered, was not to be deterred from again embarking in it. On application to Captain Howard, as commanding officer at Michilimackinac, he therefore obtained the exclusive privilege to this trade in the country bordering on Lake Superior, previous to his setting out to the Sault Sainte Marie, and resolved to re-enter on the pursuit of it with increased ardour and perseverance.

After effecting these arrangements, he lost no time in making farther necessary preparations. Purchasing goods and provisions sufficient for loading four canoes, at the Fort, for which he contracted to pay in Beaver skins on his return, he embarked for the Sault Sainte Marie on the 14th of July, 1765. At this last place he found his old friend, M. Cadotte, whom he took into partnership, and in whose company he proceeded to their wintering grounds, at a place called Chagouemig. In the course of their journey thither, they met with several families of Indians, whom (as the custom is) they engaged to hunt for them, giving them supplies upon credit: and these, along with such as they met with at the wintering ground, amounted to 100 families in all, who were now in their service, and engaged in hunting for them.

From 1765, which we are now arrived at, till the year 1776, Mr. Henry was occupied in the Fur trade during the whole time, with the exception of about three years, when his views were partially directed to another object of which we shall take notice hereafter. In the course of his pursuits in this line, he traversed a great portion of that immense territory lying to the west and north of Lake Superior, and penetrated, in a westerly direction, as far as the Athabasca country, within 300 leagues of the Pacific Ocean. In his writings we have a very interesting account of these journies; with many valuable geographical facts never before known. Indeed his work (being the first British subject who had ever traversed this country) has been of the greatest utility to subsequent travellers. The elegant scientific account of this continent, for which literature is indebted to the labours of Sir Alexander McKenzie, is almost superseded by Mr. Henry's book, as far as the latter travelled; and derives its value only from the account