

fore you arrive at the Northern Ocean; and that the river which rises from that lake empties into the Northern Pacific Ocean, and is the river that Cook discovered.

5. That an easy communication with, and an advantageous commerce, may be carried on by posts established on Lakes Slave, Arabaska, and Pelican, &c. and to deliver the fruits of their commerce at the mouth of Cook's River, to be thence carried to China, &c. &c.; and that, as Cook's River and the lands on Slave Lake, Arabaska, &c. are very fine, some advantageous settlements may be made thereon, which may be beneficial to Government.

The country about Arabaska is exceedingly fine, and the climate more moderate than it is here; which is owing to its propinquity to the Western Ocean. The distance is not more than 200 leagues, if so much, in a West-south-western course. We have a post there, as we have on the different lakes from Lake Superior to the upper end of Slave Lake. The number of posts are 21 in that distance, where traders are posted to trade with different tribes of Indians. The distance from this town to the head of Lake Superior is 750 leagues, and from the head of Lake Superior to the great Slave Lake is 1000 leagues; in the whole, 1750 leagues.— The person from whom I had my information is Peter Pond, who was supplied with the proper instruments here to take his latitude, and instructed fully in the knowledge of astronomy, &c. &c. His latitude is undoubtedly right, and his longitude is nearly right. It was taken by some persons sent from York River, several hundred miles to the Westward of it; and from thence, by the courses of the rivers and lakes, no great mistake can be made. Another man, by the name of M'Kenzie, was left by Pond at Slave Lake, with orders to go down the river, and from thence to Unalaska, and so to Kamtsatka, and thence to England, through Russia, &c. If he meets with no accident, you may have him with you the next year. Yours, &c.