

necessaries as were required, and we reached that place about noon of the 8th.

In proceeding thither we pursued a northerly course, and on the 5th came to a lake called "Loon Lake," along which we continued, camping that night at its northern end. It is about twelve miles in length, with a breadth of from two to five miles. On the 6th we encamped on the west side of a larger lake, and next day crossed a smaller and halted at the southern end of another, in size equal to "Loon Lake," to which I gave the name of Chief Trader Murray. These lakes, together with a chain of from forty to fifty small ponds or sheets of water, varying in extent from one-eighth to two miles, lie in a flat or valley formed by two ridges of rising ground running parallel with each other, and extending on the southward from within a short distance of the Mackenzie (the country thence being undulating) to Murray Lake, where they subside into a series of gentle hills or eminences, to Canoe Lake. The country appeared to be well timbered in every direction with pines, juniper, several species of willow, and a few small groves of poplar and birch. Marshy plains and swamps occurred at intervals, and the soil, where not composed of moss or vegetable mould, consisted of a thin layer of dark loam, with a whitish clay or reddish sand underneath. Ice was still as firm as ever on the larger lakes, and wild fowl were exceedingly numerous wherever water appeared. On the west side of "Lac Rory" (where we camped June 6) several fossils similar to those found in the limestone forming the Ramparts on the Mackenzie [Devonian] were picked up. The beach was shingly and no rock *in situ* could be discovered in that quarter.

Canoe Lake is larger than any of the above and is of a triangular form, with high banks and hilly ground tolerably wooded in its vicinity. At its northeast end we found the Iroquois, who had the canoes and everything in excellent order. Finding that the river issuing from the lake was too insignificant to admit of being navigated by canoes even of the smallest size, I determined on making a portage