

them copper stones and plates, but had hardly left the shore before they heard a loud voice exclaiming in an angry tone, 'Who are the thieves that carry off the cradles and the toys of my children?' They were very much surprised at the sound, not knowing whence it came. One said it was the thunder; another that it was a certain goblin called Missibizi, the spirit of the waters, like Neptune among the heathen; another that it came from the Memogovissioois, who are marine men, living constantly under the water, like the Tritons and Syrens, having long hair, reaching to the waist; and one of the savages asserted that he had actually seen such a being. At any rate, this extraordinary voice produced such fear that one of them died before landing; shortly after, two others died, and one alone reached home, who, after having related what had happened, also died. Since that time, the savages have not dared to visit the island, or even to steer in that direction." The Father attempts to explain this superstition by supposing that they were poisoned by using the copper boulders in cooking their meat, and that the supernatural voice was an echo of their own, and that the vanishing and reappearance of the island was due to fogs and haze which hang about it. He concludes by adding that it is a common belief among the savages that the island contains an abundance of copper, but that no one dare approach it.

"Pushing along to Le Grand Anse, (Neepigon bay,) we come to an island called 'Thunder island,' which is noted for its abundance of metal. (This is probably St. Ignace.) Further to the west is an island called Menong, (Isle Royale,) celebrated for its copper. It is large, being twenty-five leagues long and seven leagues distant from the main land. One bay at the northeast extremity is particularly remarkable. It is bounded by steep cliffs of clay, in which there may be seen several strata or beds of red copper separated from each other by layers of earth. In the water is seen copper sand, which may be gathered with spoons, although there are pieces as large as acorns. This large island is surrounded by several smaller ones, some of which are said to consist entirely of copper. One, especially, near the northeast corner, is within gunshot of the main island. Further off in that direction is one called Manitou-minis, on account of the abundance of copper. It is said by those who have visited it, that on a stone being thrown against it, a sound like that of brass when struck is heard.

"After having reached the extremity of the lake, there may be seen (one day's journey) on the south shore, by the water's edge, a mass of copper weighing 600 or 700 lbs., so hard that steel cannot cut it; but when heated it may be cut like lead."

On one of the islands near Chaquamegon bay, he relates that copper rocks and plates are found, and that he bought of the savages a plate of pure copper two and a half feet square, weighing more than 100 lbs. He supposes that they have been derived from Menong, and that their transport has been effected either by floating ice or by powerful winds from the northeast, which have rolled them along the bottom of the lake.

He mentions the fact that the Ottawa squaws, in digging holes in the sand to hide their corn, often find masses weighing 20 or 30 lbs. "Near the river Nantonagon (Ontonagon) may be seen a bluff, from which stones of red copper fall down into the water. Three years since we were presented with a piece from that locality weighing 100 lbs. We have cut some pieces from it, and sent them to Talon, at Quebec. The savages do