

Our next operation was to cross the River on a Raft and to examine the Lands lying along the River which causes that fork of the Jacques Cartier at which our Camp is situated, and which, if good, would form a further continuation of our fine tract from the Lakes across Tewkesbury. With this intent, by advice of the Chief, we descended on a Raft about a Mile, and landing on the opposite shore, followed an Indian Portage between two Mountains for about four Miles until we struck the River where it branches off in two parts; all the Land for this distance is adapted for Settlement, but after three Miles begins to deteriorate, and at the end of the fourth Mile where it strikes the River, suddenly becomes bad. This however in all affords a belt of about eight miles of good Land from Lake St. Thomas to the point just described, of unknown width, but certainly sufficient for the accommodation of numerous Families of Settlers.

Having reason to suppose that by returning to the Camp along the River to its junction with the Jacques Cartier, instead of retracing our steps we should find the shore capable of Settlement, we, contrary to the opinion of the Chief, determined to do so. We however found his information correct and the Land of no value; for the Mountain which we had passed on the other side came shelving down for the most part to the very edge of the River, affording no interval of any consequence, and occasioning us a fatiguing and in some parts even a dangerous path. We however have the satisfaction of reflecting that we are now able to speak positively of its unfitness for useful purposes. This River and the Mountains are in Huron both called "Soulariski," (the Bark is long).

On July the 15th we descended the River Jacques Cartier, on Rafts prepared for the purpose, on the right Bank going downwards. The good Land bordering the River ceases at the end of a Mile by the approximation of the water's edge, nor does it again appear, except in patches, until nearly opposite Rivière l'Epaule, where there is a rich point of Land the commencement of a fine parcel lying lower down. On the left hand the Mountains on the contrary appear to recede from the River in proportion as those of the opposite shore push forward; and the interval left is entitled to a high character for excellence. The Timber is of a large growth of a good kind, and the Soil fit for any thing; this we had an opportunity of ascertaining by frequently landing and making an examination. There is no interruption to this fine tract