

Appendix
(Z.)
1st March.

full expectation that the men would overtake us, as we had left them but a short distance on the other side of the stream. Finding they did not join us, we returned to the top of the hill where we had left them resting, but they had departed; nor could we track them beyond the small stream. As we were entirely without provisions, we determined not to lose more time in looking for the tracks of our men, but follow the blaze between the fourth and fifth ranges in hopes we should come to a clearance before night, or early the following morning. We also thought it probable the men had gone into the valley we saw on our right hand, to avoid ascending the steep and rugged hills crossed by the line. After once more crossing the stream and ascending the cliff, we marched along very rough ground, crossing some steep hills over which the fire had passed. The young timber was poplar and balsam. At length we reached a flat tract covered with beech and maple, and shortly after came to the edge of a precipice upwards of one hundred feet in height; we descended by going a short distance to the north, but even then were obliged to cling to the trees and bushes in our descent. At the foot ran a stream, and to our surprise we immediately found ourselves in a clearance, but were much disappointed when we ascertained that there were no inhabitants. We followed the concession road which appeared to be only recently made, and for some distance was swampy. On each side there were clearances, but still without settlers. At length passing through several lots, in part cleared, the road began to improve and the land became of a dryer quality; when we suddenly came to the end of a new road, where five or six men were working. This road is one of those for which a sum of money was lately voted by the House of Assembly, and it is the only one we saw communicating in a direct line with the old settlements on the Saint Lawrence. We met a Mr. Morrison, who informed us that our men had passed about fifteen minutes before, and had expressed some anxiety concerning us; he also communicated the agreeable information, that some provisions were at the house of Mr. Armstrong on the Lake Malquinongé, from which we were distant about two miles. We soon overtook our men, who, as we suspected, had gone into the valley on the south side of the hill; and having fallen in with a road, they thought it best to follow it until they again struck the line. We passed over a perfectly flat and well settled country, being part of the Seignior of Lanaudière. Mr. Armstrong's house is situated on the south-east side of the lake, which is nine miles in circumference; its greatest length being from north-west to south-east. The shores of the lake are flat; the soil a clayey marle; principally covered with hemlock, spruce, balsam and white pine. They cultivate grain of all sorts with great success; but the potatoes are of a very indifferent quality. In the distance towards the north and north-west rise high hills, covered, as we were informed, with beech and maple of a large growth. We had always been led to suppose that this Lake was surrounded by high lands; but this is not the case, as the ground to the south-east and east is a continual flat. We were received with great hospitality by Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Monroe, the Gentlemen in charge of the provisions, who was residing at the line in Mr. Armstrong's house.

November 6th.

This was one of those misty mornings which had been the prevailing weather, (with the exception of one or two days,) for the last fortnight. We gave our men this day to rest themselves, of which indeed we were all much in need. We employed ourselves in gaining all the information we possibly could relative to the high lands we saw to the north-west of the lake. All accounts seemed to agree that there was a considerable tract of good, but hilly land, extending for a certain distance back; but we could not ascertain the precise distance.

November 7th.

Exactly the same kind of weather as yesterday. Several of our people complained of sickness, and extreme fatigue. We therefore thought it most advisable to forward part of the provisions to some intermediate point; and the only certain place which seemed to be known, was a Mill on the River du Loup, belonging to Mr. Kempton; but whether this Mill was situated in the Seignior, or in the Township of Hunterstown, we could not ascertain. We procured a person to take part of our stores round in a cart; but Mr. Monroe apprehending in the event of any unforeseen difficulty that the boy in charge of the cart might be induced to deposit the provisions without reaching the place agreed upon, most kindly offered, without any remuneration, to accompany them until safely lodged in a spot where we should hear

of them; and in this duty we expected he would be employed five days. We started at eleven o'clock, the weather having in some degree cleared up. As Mr. Munroe was not to leave for Berthier with the extra stores, until the following morning, he accompanied us as far as the spot we had fixed upon as a fresh point of departure. We sent the men and stores down the River Maskinongé in a large wooden canoe. Having bid farewell to our hospitable friends on the lake, we immediately entered the bush, following a wood path over level land, somewhat swampy; which was more owing to the constant rain than the nature of the soil. On leaving the wood and crossing a clearance in a north east direction we came to the Banks of Maskinongé River; a fine stream, and navigable for canoes down to the Saint Lawrence. At the moment we reached the river, the large canoe hove in sight, and we crossed in a small canoe in sufficient time to see them shoot a small rapid. On reaching the last settlement, but one, on this part of the river, we got the owner of the house to show us the way to the last clearance. We first entered a wood for a mile in extent, and crossed a small river which discharged into the Masquinongé. On leaving the wood we saw the house of Mr. Champagne, being the last clearance south east on the river for about fifteen miles; and the point we had fixed for our departure. At this place the river forms a fine avenue, and is about eighty feet in width. The shores of this river will soon be well settled, as the greater portion is already granted, and will be cleared in the ensuing spring. From the information obtained we considered this farm as being situated about one mile and a half north east of the town line of Brandon. This afternoon was wet and misty.

November 8th.

Thermometer at six o'clock, thirty six degrees. A wet and cloudy morning. Commenced our march at eight o'clock, by chaining over two thousand five hundred feet of level land, which our men had blazed and cleared away on the previous evening; we crossed three small ravines; soil extremely good; timber mixed, but chiefly white pine, black birch and spruce. We then crossed three hundred feet swampy, and two hundred feet dry and level land; crossed a small ravine, and chained over one thousand feet of flat good land, to the edge of a very deep ravine about sixty feet wide. We next made a slight descent of five hundred feet to the side of a small stream, which we crossed, and ascended gently close to the edge of a high bank of rich marley soil, upwards of fifty feet in depth; at the foot ran a small rapid stream. We continued over seven hundred and eighty feet of good land, the last two hundred and fifty feet gradually ascending. Timber, pine, cedar, spruce and birch. We next crossed five hundred feet rocky, and passed over a small swamp fifty feet to the foot of a hill. After dinner we ascended the hill four hundred feet, over rocky land; and five hundred feet level, mixed timber; good soil. This level continued five hundred feet farther, when we descended a rocky hill two hundred feet, and continued along a level on the top, of three hundred feet in length. Timber on this hill hard wood. One thousand feet more, level land, and fine timber, (and watered by a stream) brought us to a very gradual ascent of five hundred and fifty feet. Timber, beech, birch and maple. We then ascended a hill five hundred feet through hemlock and spruce, and four hundred and fifty feet over a rocky ridge, but well covered with strong growth of beech and maple. Twelve hundred and thirty feet more over tolerably level land, a little encumbered with fragments of rock, brought us to a gradual descent of five hundred feet; still beech and maple. Thence over five hundred feet of level and rather swampy land bearing a growth of hemlock, spruce and balsam. Immense isolated masses of angular shaped sienitic rocks, lay scattered over this swampy tract. Fifty feet to the south, was a ridge of hard wood, where we encamped for the night, near a small brook. The evening mild and misty.

November 9th.

Thermometer at six o'clock, forty degrees. Cloudy, moist weather. Commenced work at a quarter before seven o'clock, and passed over one thousand feet of good land along the brow of a small hill; close on the left was a fine valley. We then crossed one thousand feet over a hill, the summit very rocky, and entered a valley which wound round towards the west. This valley measured five hundred feet across; good land; mixed timber. Two hundred and fifty feet along the side of a rocky hill, with flat land close adjoining; and five hundred feet level land, brought us to an ascent of one hundred and fifty feet. We then descended