

The largest pieces of copper are found associated with prehnite, and the Indians are careful to search for ore wherever they observe pieces of the last-named mineral lying on the surface. The original repository or vein of copper ore does not appear to have been hitherto observed; but judging from specimens picked up by our overland expeditions, it most probably traverses felspathose trap. Ice-chisels have been observed in the possession of the Esquimaux measuring twelve or fourteen inches long, and half an inch in diameter, formed of pure copper.

Another range of trap hills occurs at the distance of ten miles to the northward of the Copper Mountains. This range is about twenty miles from the Arctic Sea, and beyond it the country is very level, with a subsoil of light brownish-red sandstone. These desolate plains nourish only a coarse short grass, and the trees which had previously dwindled to scraggy clumps entirely disappear.

At the mouth of the Coppermine River there occurs a low ridge of greenstone; and from thence to Bloody Fall, which is a distance of about ten miles, the country is very level, with the exception of some ridges of trap, by which it is traversed. The channel of the river is sunk nearly 150 feet below the level of the surrounding country, and is bounded by cliffs of yellowish-white sand, and sometimes of clay, beneath which beds of greenstone occasionally crop out.

The islands in this quarter of the Arctic Sea are invariably rocky. They present a remarkable uniformity of appearance, and are very generally bounded by mural precipices of trap-rock clinkstone or claystone. But the main shore presents a greater diversity. For sixty miles eastward of Coppermine River, the beach is low and gravelly, but towards Tree River the trap rocks reappear and form a sterile and rocky coast. At Port Epworth the valleys were stony, and almost entirely destitute of herbage. The rocks observed were liver-brown clinkstone porphyry, with a few beds of earthy greenstone, and the same formation extends to the mouth of Wentzel's River, to the eastward of which a projection of the coast forms Cape Barrow. When Dr Richardson rounded this cape the weather was extremely foggy, but the rocks examined consisted of a beautiful admixture of red and gray granite, forming steep and craggy peaks which rose abruptly from