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On the morning of the 5th December my thermometer indicated 22° below zero and again on the 18th 18° below zero, a degree of cold which was not remarkable, but which had the effect of rendering the sad means a comfortable mode of transport.

Arriving at Edmonton on the 16th December I exchanged my horses and dogs, and saddle for a small cañole, and on the 20th December commenced the winter journey to Red River. The cold, long day began in all its severity. On the 22nd December my thermometer at 10 o'clock in the morning indicated 39° below zero, later in the day a biting wind swept the long reaches of the Saskatchewan River, and rendered travelling on the ice almost insupportable. To note here the long days of travel down the great valley of the Saskatchewan, at times on the frozen river and at times upon the neighbouring plains, would prove only a tiresome record. Little by little the snow seemed to deepen, day by day the frost to obtain a more lasting power, and to bind in a still more solid embrace all visible Nature. No human voice, no sound of bird or beast, no ripple of stream to break the intense silence of these vast solitudes of the Lower Saskatchewan. At length early in the month of February I quitted the valley of the Saskatchewan at Cedar Lake, crossed the ridge which separates that sheet of water from Lake Winnipegosis, and descending the latter Lake to its outlet at Waterhen River, passed from thence to the Northern extremity of the Lake Manitoba. Finally on the 18th February I reached the settlement of Oak Point on South shore of Manitoba and two days later arrived at Fort Garry.

In following the River and Lake route from Carlton, I passed in succession the posts of Prince Albert, Forts a la Corne and Cumberland, the posts of the Moose Lake, Shoal River and Manitoba House, and with a few exceptions, travelled upon ice the entire way.

The journey from first to last occupied 119 days and embraced a distance of about 2,700 miles.

I have now to offer the expression of my best acknowledgments to the Officers of the various posts of the Hudson Bay Company passed en route. To Mr. W. J. Christie, of Edmonton, to Mr. Richard Hardisty, of Victoria, as well as to Messrs Hackland, Sinclair, Ballenden, Trail, Turner, Belanger, Matheson, McBeath, Munro and McDonald, I am indebted for much kindness and hospitality, and I have to thank Mr. W. J. Christie for information of much value regarding statistics connected with his District. I have also to offer to the Revd. Messrs Lacombe, McDougall, and Nisbet the expression of the obligations which I am under, towards them, for uniform kindness and hospitality.