

'Agreeably to the Indians' proposal we remained at Thelewey-aza-yeth ten days, during which time my companions were busily employed (at their intervals from hunting) in preparing small staves of birch wood about 1½ inches square and 7 or 8 feet long. These serve as tent poles all the summer while on the barren grounds, and as the fall advances are converted into snow-shoe frames for winter use.

'Birch rind, together with timbers and other wood work for building canoes, were also another object of the Indians' attention while at this place, but as the canoes were not to be set up till our arrival at Clowey (which was many miles distant), all the wood work was reduced to its proper size for the purpose of making it light for portage.

'As to myself I had little to do except to make a few observations for determining the latitude, bringing up my journal, and filling up my chart to the present time. I found the latitude of this place 61° 30' north, and its longitude, by my account, 19° west of Prince of Wales Fort. Having a good stock of dried provisions and most of the necessary work for canoes all ready by the 18th, we moved about 9 or 10 miles to the north-north-west, and there came to a tent of Northern Indians who were tenting on the north side of Thelewey-aza river.* From these Indians Matonabbes purchased another wife.

'On the 23rd, as I hinted above, we began to move forward and to shape our course nearly north, but the weather was in general so hot, and so much snow had in consequence been melted, as made it bad walking in snow-shoes, and such exceeding heavy loading, that it was the 3rd of May before we could arrive at Clowey—though the distance was not above eighty-five miles from Thelewey-aza-yeth.

'In our way we crossed part of two small lakes, called Tittameg lake and Scartack lake.

'The Lake Clowey is not much more than twelve miles broad in the widest part. A small river which runs into it on the west side is said by the Indians to join the "Athapuscow" lake.†

'Besides the Grand river, already mentioned, ‡ there are several others of less note which empty themselves into the great Athapuscow lake.** There are also several small rivers and creeks on the north-east side of the lake, that carry off the superfluous waters, some of which, after a variety of windings through the barren grounds to the north of Churchill river, are lost in the marshes and low grounds, whilst others by means of many small channels and rivulets are discharged into other rivers and lakes, and at last, doubtless find their way into Hudson bay.††

Later in his narrative, Hearne says:

'From the 13th to the 24th of February we walked along a small river that empties itself into the Lake Clowey, near the part where we built canoes in May, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-one. This little river is that which we mentioned in the former part of this journal as having communicated with the Athapuscow lake; but from appearances, it is of no consequence whence it takes its rise, or where it empties itself, as one-half of it is nearly dry three-fourths of the year. The intervening ponds, however, having sufficient depth of water, are, we may suppose, favourable situations for beaver, as many of their houses are to be found in those parts.

'The little river lately mentioned, as well as the adjacent lakes and ponds, being well stocked with beavers, and the land abounding with moose and buffalo, we were induced to make but slow progress in our journey.

*One of the upper branches of Thelon river.

† Athapuscow lake is what we now know as Great Slave lake, and is separated from Clowey by the height of land.

‡ Slave river.

** Great Slave lake.

†† A remarkable example of imagination. In order to perform such a feat the waters of Lake Athapuscow would have to cross an elevation of 800 feet.