

dition which is so congenial, and in most cases, necessary to their growth, and accounts thus for their absence.

The section of country surrounding Lake Superior has a peculiar flora. On the lake margin, but especially on its jutting headlands the vegetation has almost a semi-Arctic type. The beech and white oak are everywhere absent, while on the north shore the red oak, maple and basswood are almost entirely wanting. But it is less among the trees than among the herbaceous forms that the vegetation is striking. On Keweenaw Point and Thunder Cape are semi-Arctic plants—the remnants—like the Maritime plants of this and other great lakes—of a former flora, and suggestive of the colder climate of that part of the country in a now-past epoch. The moist, cool but equable atmosphere, resulting from the presence of such a large body of deep water as Lake Superior, readily accounts for the continuance of these little plants there, and has much to do with the absence of so many of the larger forms of vegetation. A short distance inland from Thunder Bay—and this no doubt is a mere illustration of what occurs everywhere on the coast of the lake—there is, however, a remarkable change. As the effect of the lake air becomes less perceptible, plants of more temperate range appear, until at about two miles or more up the Kaministiquia River no boreal or semi-Arctic plants are met with, and the vegetation has much the appearance of that of the river valleys of Central Canada.

The vegetation of the projecting headlands of the lakes is affected by the action of the general flow of the waters of these lakes towards the sea, plants peculiar to the southern and western sides of the lakes being thus found on the immediate shores of the northern sides as well. On the other hand, the coasts of the Lower St. Lawrence are influenced by the cool atmosphere attending the Labrador Arctic Current, a branch of which enters the Gulf of St. Lawrence by the Straits of Belle Isle.

So rapidly has the Western Ontario Peninsula been brought under cultivation that we can hardly now realize the extent to which it was covered by magnificent forests fifty or more years ago. In 1834 this part of the country was visited by Robert Brown and