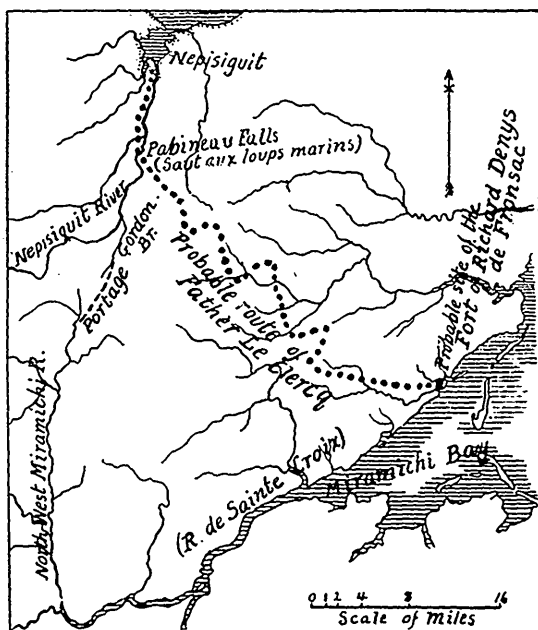


snowshoes on our feet. The night drove us, after four to five leagues of advance, to camp to pass the night. It was necessary in order to make things as comfortable as the country would permit, to dig a hollow four to five feet deep in the snow, which we had to throw out with our snowshoes, until we reached the ground which our Indians covered with branches of green firs on which we lay during the night.¹ Monsieur Henaut took the trouble with the Indian to cut and collect the wood necessary to warm us, and each one took his refection with as much contentment as if we had been in a good inn. Our only loss was of our brandy, which gave us great chagrin, for despite the pre-



caution we had taken to gum up the little keg of bark, there was found a little opening through which the brandy had run out along the road without our knowing it until we wished to take some after the meal. There only remained very little; it was immediately divided to console us for our discomfiture and to put what was left beyond the reach of loss. It is true, nevertheless, that we were deprived of a great solace by the loss of this brandy; for we found ourselves sometime afterwards in such pressing circumstances that this liquor would have been without doubt of great aid to us; but we had to console ourselves for this vexatious adventure, and we passed the first night, like all others of our voyage, at the Sign of the Moon and of the Beautiful Star.

¹ This method of camping in the winter is said to be still practised by the Indians.