



III.

DOWN LAKE WINNIPEG.

SIX HUNDRED MILES IN A HUDSON BAY STEAMER — THE LOWER RED RIVER AND ITS SWAMPS — LAKE WINNIPEG, ITS SHORES AND WATERS — RUNNING THE GRAND RAPIDS OF THE SASKATCHEWAN — THE PARADISE OF POT FISHERMEN — A CHARACTERISTIC HUDSON BAY COMPANY POST.

During the first week in July I traveled by water 320 miles north from Winnipeg to the head of Nelson River and the mouth of the Saskatchewan. At the former place I was still 300 miles from the point where the whole water system of the Winnipeg basin discharges itself through the mouth of the Nelson into Hudson Bay. At the latter point I was at the threshold of 1,200 miles of water navigation, through thousands of square miles of the fertile wheat growing belt to the rich mineral deposits at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The magnificent distances and wonderful undeveloped capacities of this country are not its only surprises. Parallels of latitude seem to be wiped out, and isothermal lines to stand upon their heads. We sailed the whole distance under Italian skies, through balmy summer breezes and past shores clad in luxuriant verdure. All through we slept with our outer state room doors open, passed evenings upon the upper deck and sought shelter from the burning sun during the day. Only one day was it oppressively hot during the trip. On that day I afterwards learned the mercury stood at 95 degrees in the shade at Winnipeg. Surely when Lake Winnipeg is fairly opened to convenient travel, it will become a popular tourists' resort, rivaling Lake George and the St. Lawrence. The only atmospheric disturbance experienced was a veritable tropical gust of thunder, rain, wind and hail, at the mouth of the Sas-