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SURVEY OF THE OTTAWA ROUTE TO LAKE HURON.

AMONG the various plans of public improvement that have been proposed in this country, is the making a navigable water communication between the Ottawa River and Lake Huron, in order to facilitate the settlement of the country, and provide for the transport of produce from the upper Lakes by a much shorter route than through Lakes Erie and Ontario. With this design, an act of the Legislature was passed, providing for a "Survey of the Ottawa river, and the country bordering on it, together with the country and waters lying between that river and Lake Huron." In pursuance of this act commissioners were appointed, who engaged three gentlemen, "who were directed to take different routes, with a view of discovering the nature of the country, the facilities of transport, the quality of the soil, and whether adapted to purposes of cultivation, besides the great object—the water communication."—The reports of these gentlemen fulfil these objects. As these reports and the country they describe are but little known, we shall give an abstract of them in the present article.

The gentlemen employed in this survey embarked at Penetanguishine, and crossed the north-eastern coast of Lake Huron, when one of them (Mr. Taylor) struck out for the French river, and had to pay an Indian to shew him its entrance. "The impracticability of a stranger finding the mouth of this river is soon seen. The islands are grouped together, forming channels deep and intricate, with many

reefs and sunken rocks, varying in their course, without any feature to distinguish one from another, and extending themselves as far as the eye can see. The Indians are sometimes at a loss to know the best and nearest channel to a required spot, as the islands have the same appearance, the greatest elevation not exceeding 30 feet, often only 15. But a channel could be marked out by beacons on the sunken rocks." The Hudson Bay Company have a post near the mouth of this river. Three miles farther up the stream there is a portage 300 yards across; the fall is about 10 feet, river narrow and impeded with rocks. "The surrounding country presents the same appearance as the north-east shore of Lake Huron; the wood is of a stunted growth, and the rocks are covered with mosses and lichens." Ascending the river, the channel is narrow and rocky, depth of water varying from 10 to 20 feet, and on each side a bold granite shore 60 or 80 feet high. But few fish in the river, and but little hunting in the country, beaver or otter extremely scarce, deer not seen except in winter. At 14 miles the fall of Petit Reolet occurs, which is 20 feet, the portage 150 yards. Ten miles further is the Petit Foule rapid, the country granite, covered with a small, stunted growth of pine, birch, and poplar. Further up occur the rapids Brisson, Grand Foule, Croix, and Pine, whose rise equal to 57 feet. The banks are bold and irregular, 100 feet high, undulating, covered with small wood. The chan-