

and rock. Before reaching the Peau de Lièvre, the said rocky chain disappeared behind us, and two others arose to the south, viz : that at the Sansault Rapid, above Good Hope, and the other on the east side higher up the Mackenzie. The timber consists of pine, juniper, fir, willow, and a few groves of poplar and birch. Some of the pines were of a large size.

From the spot where we halted for dinner on the 11th, we had a fine view of a large bay on Simpson Lake. The ice thereon was still as white and firm as in mid-winter, and the Indian informed me that it never broke up until late in the season. The banks appeared high and well timbered. He also informed me that its waters were deep and of a bluish color, and its shores rocky. A great number of families pass the severe months of the winter on this lake in which fish are obtainable all the year round.

Finding near our encampment a raft which had been used by Indians in crossing the Peau de Lièvre, last spring, we launched it and continued the descent of that river until noon, when we found an Indian canoe on the beach. This we repaired, and going on much quicker with the paddle, we arrived at Fort Good Hope late in the evening of the 14th July, after an absence of forty-one days—the Indians sent home having preceded us by nine and Laporte by seven days. Had we not lost our own canoes, this trip would have been performed in less time, as most of the rapids on Anderson River could have been ascended with the line, and all of them—one only excepted—might be run by a North canoe.

From the date of our departure until the 3rd of July we had but a few hours of rain or snow, the weather being always fine. After that date we had rain and cloudy weather until we reached the Peau de Lièvre, the descent of which was effected under a severe thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain. The prevailing winds were from the north and northeast. It was also misty at night near the coast. After leaving the Anderson, musquitoes were in