

miles from its mouth, but above that point its navigation was interrupted by rapids. On arriving at the lake, the view was found to be very grand. Owing to the existence of magnetic rocks the surveying party could make but little use of their compasses; the angles, however, were taken and its distances measured by a micrometer; the latitudes were also taken by various observations of the sun and polesstar, and meridian lines were also laid down. Lake Nipigon lies directly north of the northern extremity of Lake Superior, and is more than half the size of Lake Ontario; its general outline is elliptical. Its area was 3,700 square miles, or about four-sevenths of the size of Lake Ontario; its length 70, and its breadth 50 miles. As an illustration of the size of Lake Nipigon, there are nine lakes in Canada—amongst them, Lake St. John, Lake Metapedia, Lake Temiscouta, Lake Megantie, Lake St. Francis and Lake Memphremagog—but Lake Nipigon is four times as large as the whole nine put together. Lake Nipigon is by far the most beautiful of all the great lakes, and is studded throughout its whole extent by islands, large and small, and high and low, some rocky and some thickly wooded. They could not, of course, survey the whole of these during one season; but, in connection with their triangulations of the coast, they managed to locate 460 of these with tolerable accuracy, and more roughly over 100 others. Some of these islands were large enough to form whole townships. One of them was eight miles in diameter, several were from five to six miles across, while those from two to three miles in breadth were quite common. They were all covered with good soil and well timbered, and some day will, no doubt, be converted into well-cultivated farms. The coast line of the lake measures 580 miles, or, perhaps, considerably more than the coast line of Lake Ontario, and, therefore, a great deal of the country round the lake is accessible from the water. Sixteen rivers, with unpronounceable Indian names, flow into the lake, and the average size of these streams is as large as the Grand River of Ontario. The Gull River is much larger. As far as these rivers were examined, the country through which they flow was found to be level, with clayey soil, and a light surface of sand. Like all rivers flowing through level countries, the feeders are very crooked, and when the water is low they resemble great winding ditches with muddy banks. On one river which they ascended they met no rapids for ten miles up, and that was but a small one. Some distance up this same river they