

feet; indeed, from its lower extremity at the Sault St. Mary, to the northwest corner, at the Pigeon River, which is the boundary line, one could hardly imagine a more bleak and inhospitable country. It is indented by numerous bays, some of them of great width and depth. Proceeding upwards from Sault St. Mary, there are Butchewana, Michipicoton, Pic, Nipigon, and Thunder Bays. The latter is near Fort William, and is about 21 miles wide, with nearly an equal depth. Rivers of considerable size flow into the great basin by the bays which I have mentioned. From the coast or shore line to the height of land, a distance of about seventy or eighty miles to the north, the whole country may be described as hilly, with numerous lakes, and here and there patches of good land in the valleys of the rivers. The timber is principally the different kinds of fir, birch, and aspen; some pines and maples are also found, but not of a large size.

I am not well acquainted with the south shore of the Lake; but from all accounts, it presents a remarkable contrast to the north, being low, and presenting none, or very few, of those high cliffs which distinguish the other side. It has, however, two remarkable projections or necks of land, jutting out into the lake, one called Point Keweenaw, and the other Whitefish Point; the latter is near the Sault St. Mary, and possesses a lighthouse; the other, of which I shall have something to say by and by, about half way up the Lake, is the great copper region of Lake Superior.

Altogether, about thirty rivers of more or less magnitude, empty themselves into Lake Superior; and it has only one outlet, at the Sault St. Mary, and that not a very large one. It consists with my knowledge, that the volume of water of any three of the precipitous rivers of the North Shore taken together, is more than equal to the volume of the St. Mary River, and yet with all this, the fact which had been noticed long ago, I believe can be proved, that the Lake is not so high now as it was fifty or sixty years ago. In the deep bays which abound in the Lake, and some ten or twelve feet from the present level in the bush, are small boulders, waterworn and covered with grey moss, clearly shewing that the lake water covered them at one time. Evaporation is not sufficient to account for the waste of water, and it only remains to believe that there is a great subterranean outlet to Lake Huron, or elsewhere.

There are a great many islands, lying chiefly along the shores; but the principal among them are Isle Royal or Royal Island, and the island of Michipicoton, the former about 100 miles long, the latter about 40, and both of them not far from the Canada shore; but at the time of the