

suit of pleasure, whether lady or gentlemen, you can find it in the Lake-Superior region, provided you can be pleased with grand scenery, water falls, lakes, and mountains. You can ramble in search of agates and cornelians, in which, of all I have seen engaged, I have never known one tire of the amusement yet; to become so fatigued as to stretch upon the pebbled shore and search within the reach, then crawl a space and there search on, and still as anxious and intent as when first beginning, till time, who is flying while you are absorbed and unconscious of his flight, begins to dim your vision with a declining sun, and weaken discrimination of the prize you seek: then rousing to consciousness, you see the sun that hung high in the heavens when you commenced your search, just sinking in the waves, and reflecting, you seem to have been away in another world and just returned; you look about for some known object, almost doubting your identity; reluctantly, you shape your course for home, but hope lingering hangs upon the way; though fatigued and

O'erloaded with the selections fancy found,
You'll pick, look—"One more," you'll say—
"Another with those 't are to be ground,"
Or examined dry, be thrown away.

This is agate hunting, as all will testify who have tried it; the most fascinating and bewildering, yet certainly innocent amusement. I have seen a staid and dignified old Governor stretched at length upon the shore from very exhaustion, absorbed and lost to every thing but examining agates, consuming half an hour in scrutinizing and admiring the variegated tints, the beautiful blending of shades and colours, and the regularity of the myriads of diverging and concentrating lines of different colours in an agate he gazed upon, not larger in circumference than a dime; or tired of this, you can wander away with hook and line, to the bright and beautiful lakes that lie among the hills; or take your gun, for

The pigeon and the partridge 's there,
The wild-duck and the timid hare—

but no snakes! I have never heard of any in the country. Or take a bark canoe, which two or three trials will make you at home in, for they are much easier to get the "hang" of than most persons suppose; go to the adjacent islands, run into the caverns and grottos which cannot be reached in any other way. You may find rare agates there after a gale. And when you return, keep along the shore and examine the bottom marked by the white spar veins, discernible at thirty or forty feet deep; or, nearer the shore, with a forked stick bring up the stones you fancy agates, beyond the reach of those on shore. And when you get back you will have an appetite. The tonic air of that region, and the water, will make a new being of you in a few weeks. The air is bracing, yet soft, and is pleasant in "dog days," without producing that faintness and lassitude of the warm weather you have been used to. And the water—well, you will not be singular, you will then say you have never drank any water before; and when you return whence you came, and again drink of what you once thought delicious, you will condemn it as an adulteration or spurious.

To the invalid, I have a few words to say for his information. I am not "cracking up the country," for I shall write nothing that all who go will not find as I represent it, or all who have been will not confirm, either on this or any other subject of their acquaintance which I treat upon. To you I say, go then. Although your health is impaired, you cannot be injured; and I know one gentleman who had been South, had been to Havannah, without any benefit; one season on Lake Superior restored him, as he said, to comparative health. He was a *compagnon du voyage*. I don't know why it should not relieve consumptives as well as others. All who go there declare they feel much bet-

ter, and I know I did. I was under slight chronic and cutaneous affliction. I as told that the Lake Fanny Hoc, on which Fort Wilkins stands, was so much impregnated with mineral that a soldier died from drinking of it. I asked if the other soldiers had not drank it as well as he, and was informed they had, but its water had since been analysed and found to contain too much copper. Upon this I resolved to drink the water of Fanny Hoc Lake, brackish as it might be, and continued to do so while there; and I firmly believe it to be beneficial in cutaneous affections. I didn't die, as the soldier did, but felt better ever day I remained. One thing is certain,—the half-breeds and natives all live to a great age, notwithstanding their exposures; and sickness from fevers, colds, inflammations, and agues, is scarcely known. The healthy and ruddy appearance of all you meet will be a stronger guarantee and more satisfactory evidence, on your arrival, than any philosophical reasons I am able to give. I am assured there will be prepared early next spring accommodations for sojourners and travellers at all the places desirable to stop at. Even now, every hospitality is afforded which can be; but especial preparations will be made early, for next season's "passengers and baggage to and from the steamboats."

All explorers, with scarcely an exception, when they set out for the first time, encumber themselves with as much that is useless as that is useful. I will therefore state what is necessary only, as the necessaries are usually found quite burdensome enough.

If you intend to "coast round," you must provide at the Sault St. Mary a bark canoe sufficient for your number, and provisions for the estimated time, which must allow for detentions, &c., until you reach Grand Island, as there, at Granite Point (Dead River), and L'Anse, provisions will probably be obtainable next season. You will require a tent, two blankets for each, a camp kettle, frying-pan, tin cups and plates; if you are nice, a coffee-pot, ground coffee, and sugar; but the plates, coffee-pot, &c., may be dispensed with, and often are, the kettle or frying-pan being the dish from which each helps himself. The knife is in your belt. The sail of your canoe is laid upon the boughs, which are first spread upon the ground in the tent, and then your blankets. At landing, the canoe is not allowed to touch the bottom, but you get out into the water and unload it, which is then lifted out upon the shore, turned bottom upward, and your stores are secured under it; your tent is pitched, a fire built, &c. This is all, however, the work of the voyageurs, who, from practice, will despatch it with a facility that will quite astonish a new traveller.

Your clothing should be a pair of thick-soled boots of cow-hide; no stockings are required, but most persons wear them, and consequently have the nightly-recurring duty of drying them almost dry, and thus putting them on damp in the morning, producing a contest between the boots and feet of entrance and resistance, rather disagreeable. A pair of pants of cotton canvass, and a coat of the same to reach below the knee, with side and breast pockets. Cotton canvass is found to be as good as anything to turn water, and the best to turn the brush, which is a work of labour and perseverance often to be endured for hours in exploring. A red flannel shirt will not require so often washing as a cotton one, and "it is always dry and warm, though never so wet and cold"; besides, washerwomen are rather scarce, and when you have performed the office yourself a few times, you will become less fastidious in relation to such matters. A red woollen comforter. No suspenders: they would confine you in crawling under logs and limbs, and through difficult passages in the cedar thickets. A belt, carrying a hatchet and knife, buckled round the waist, will sustain your pants, and allow free exercise of your body and limbs. A wool hat, with wide brim and low round crown, is the

best to turn rain and brush. A pocket-compass, and perhaps a pipe, completes your equipment, saving a few fish-hooks and line. These are the really necessaries, though most travellers are not content with them. Experience, however, shews the necessity of being divested of everything which may be dispensed with; for portages and journeys have to be made, in which everything, even the canoe, must be carried for considerable distances, on which occasions "blessed be nothing." Habit, however, brings power of endurance which many will not believe, and I have seen a packer, himself weighing less than 145 lbs. who could take upon his back 200 lbs. weight, and make good time upon the portages.

In coasting, it is necessary to have at least one good *voyageur*, as they term themselves, who will most probably be a Frenchman or a half-breed, who understands the coast and weather-signs, superintends the unloading and camping, interprets, knows where fish may be taken, the proper places for landing, and whose counsels as to whatever implicates safety or convenience must be followed, and with rare exceptions may be, for experience makes them wise in things which gives their knowledge the appearance of intuition when contrasted with their general endowments, as the coming of a storm, the probabilities of reaching a particular necessary landing-place by a given time, &c. &c. So much depends upon the *voyageur*. If the interior is to be visited, he can generally tell you the route, nature of the country, &c. It will sometimes occur that you will be detained for two or three days at a stopping-place by high winds; but this is a rare occurrence. At other times, when the weather is favourable, you will sail on during the night, which is determined by the *voyageur's* opinion of the weather, and knowledge of the coast to be passed.

Being in all things prepared, you set out from the Sault St. Mary, generally in the afternoon; for starting is rather difficult, from the fact that your *voyageur* will be drunk from the time he is engaged until your departure; and you will start with the purpose of going a few miles that day, and having him sober next morning, when the voyage really commences.

You will be surprized in the morning to see what a change one night has made in him. Until now he has taken no interest in the preparations for the voyage; but here, he is aware that his responsibilities have commenced, and instead of the beastly and besotted creature he was yesterday, he is taking a mental inventory of whatever preparation has been made; each article of use is minutely examined; alterations and improvements, if necessary, are made; occasionally he casts a look upon the circle of the heavens for indications, as a book long studied. You "turn out," and are surprized to find that he has been up with the dawn, and breakfast is about ready. This over, if the weather to his mind is unpropitious, or he has private reasons, he will find that the canoe requires some tightening, and putting his lips to the suspected spots, will find, or pretend to find, air-holes. These he stops by taking a burning brand and holding it near the gummed joint or seam, and when the gum is softened he rubs it down with his wet finger. If this do not detain him until his mind is fixed, as to the weather and other matters, he will find other expedients; and without knowing his reasons for delaying, you change mind in regard to him, and believe him a lazy fellow; but you can't go back, and must endure it. While you are arriving at this erroneous opinion of the Indian, he is doing exactly the reverse with you, and his advantages in that contest are far greater than yours. This is your first voyage and first acquaintance with his kind, but he has been all his life in this business, and has made long voyages in company of some of the most qualified and enlightened gentlemen of the world. Perhaps, when a boy, he was with Porter, running the boundary; later, he might have been a man with Bayfield; and