

2 COPPER BEARING TRAPS, COPPERMINE RIVER—DOUGLAS.

by way of distinction, as by their own account they came from that part of the country where the mine is situated. But notwithstanding the agency of such a variety of proofs, the Company have set it at defiance, and made not the least sincere and effectual effort to push the discovery of these mines. Nay, for the sake of invalidating the evidences for the copper mine, their friends have even ventured to assert that the copper brought down by the Indians was not the produce of a mine, but broken pieces of brass guns belonging to a Danish wreck which they found upon some coast."¹

Mr. Tyrrell mentions Thomas Simpson's reference to the copper-bearing rocks on the islands of Coronation Gulf and Bathurst Inlet in his "Narrative of Discoveries on the North Coast of America in 1839," but its importance justifies its quotation in full:

"On the 17th (June) the ground was frozen hard, but the wind decreasing in the afternoon, we carried forward our baggage to the Dismal Lakes, where the ice lay as solid as in midwinter and the hills glistened with snow. A branch of the Copper Mts. stretches along the northern sides of these lakes, out of view, except at the lower part near Kendall River, where the natives report having found large masses of metal. Some metalliferous stones were picked up here, but we had no leisure to prosecute our researches farther."²

Regarding the discovery of copper on Barry Islands he says:³ "A breeze springing up from the northeast, we sailed across Arctic Sound, and at 8 P.M. encamped on Woolaston Point. . . . Very early on the 31st (July, 1837) I observed from the summit of the rocks, the gradual formation of a narrow lane of water stretching across towards Barry Islands. We immediately embarked and effected the traverse in two hours. . . . On the 2nd of August we extricated ourselves from the ice, the northerly winds continuing, we sailed around the south side of the island, which is about six miles long and two wide. Then, crossing a broad channel leading to the southward, we landed on the next island of the same group, which appeared

¹ Robson, Page 60-61.

² Narrative of discoveries on the North Coast of America, by T. Simpson, Page 252.

³ *Ibid*, Page 279.