A Journal of a Journey with the Chepawyans or
Northern Indians, to the Slave Lake, & to the East &
West of the Slave River, in 1791 & 2 by Peter Fidler.

1791

September 4th Sunday. In the afternoon I embarked with 4 Canoes of Chepawyans, in order to remain the whole Winter with them, & acquire their language These Indians have got pretty large Credits from Mr Ross, & he wished a person to accompany them, to secure his Debts, & not one of the rest of our people would winter with them - I got a few articles as supplies from Mr Ross such as 6 Womens & 2 mens Knives - 4 awls, 2 steels, ½ lb of Common beads - 2 fathoms of Brazile Tobacco, 1 Quart of Gunpowder – 50 Balls & 4 lb of shells, 4 Flints 1 small ax - & some few other trifles, I took with me neither Leather, nor stuff for Socks, which made me very badly of the greatest part of the Winter for those Articles for Winters rigging - Slept upon the Island in the Bay - We have no Tent with us the Man that I am going in care off left his at the Slave Lake in the Summer - we are to proceed for that place

5th Monday - Early in the morning got away & paddled to the mouth of the Athapescow river, where we lay by till evening & killed several Geese this is now the Season that the Geese & of all sorts return from the more northern parts & fly to the Southward - where they winter as not a single Bird of the aquatic kind remain here in the Winter on account of the extreme severity of that Season - in the Evening we paddled across the Lake & reached the outer Island quite dark at night, the traverse in that part about 20 miles - we shipped much water in crossing as the wind blew fresh at NW –

September 6th Tuesday.

Tuesday, D. h. ☉ ☾ 74. 36. 20
+ 2. 15
Lat. 58. 42. 23 74. 38. 35

Taken at the opening across the lake at the high bare rocky point in the road to the Slave Lake, where we passed July last. The Observations in this Journey are made with the small Sextant mentioned in the former part of this book of 6 Inches radius with an artificial horizon of quicksilver, but no parallel glasses - being obliged, when I took an observation to seek a calm place, that the wind might not have any breeze to shake the mercury, which answered nearly as well as having parallel glasses, but oftentimes gave me much trouble to fix on a proper place, in a Southern direction & clear away the woods for to remove all obstructions - sometimes I would have had an observation more frequent but either the wind blowed too hard or else being in the midst of thick woods. I had no watch with me consequently could make no observations for the Longitude with the necessary degree of accuracy - The Nautical Almanack & Requisite Tables - composed the whole of my Library – with 1 Shirt besides the clothes I had on my back also composed the whole of my wardrobe. In the forenoon killed several Geese, & in the afternoon we embarked, & went into the little Lake round the high rocks point where the observation was taken & obliged to put on shore too much wind to proceed. As we passed this place in July I shall not again put down the Courses, Distances &c until we come to places we have not before seen. I have a Boats Compass with me Card 3 Inches Diameter.

7th Wednesday - Could not Embark for the Wind till the afternoon they went about 6 miles down the little river (Rocky river) & put up. The Indians Killed several Ducks & Geese - so that we live extremely well.

8th Thursday - at noon Embarked and arrived at the mouth of the Peace river about 2 hours before Sun Set, & put up about 3 miles below it, in the morning before we embarked killed several Ducks & Geese.

9th Friday - Early in the morning passed by us in a small Canoe, 2 Canadians & one woman, on their way from the Slave Lake to the Athapescow House at 10 AM got underway proceeded down the Slave river 'till night & put up

September 10th Saturday - In the morning got underway, went down the river & carried over the upper carrying place, & went half way to the next & put up on a small Island - Got 2 Large Beavers & 2 Geese this day. very fine weather in general since we left our House - The water has fallen remarkably much since we passed this way in July - no less than 3 feet 4 inches perpendicular - owing to the small quantity of water, we was obliged to carry at the Rocks in the middle of the river a little above the upper Portage Current very strong running out of the Athapescow Lake down the Rocky River with some few rapids - when in July the least current was not observable

11th Sunday - Early this morning we got underway & carried over the long portage at 8 am, Fresh breezes Southerly, lay by at the lower end of the Portage & all the men went on hunting but returned, without getting any thing – also on the 7th they went on hunting & had no better success - for these few days past we have gone ashore, in several places in order to collect hips, being the only berry to be got, to eat in place of more substantial food, we take the Canoe & our little baggage over the Portage at one trip, so that we pass them expeditiously - in the afternoon we again got underway & carried over all the Portages except the last one, we met 4 Canoes of Southern Indians of the Beaver River, 7 men & 3 women, who are returning back to their own Country from War, they went in the Spring & the Cree that accompanied us all Summer, was their relation & missed them in the Athapescow Lake & prevented his accompanying them; he was with us all summer - They had the Scalps of 2 men, one quite gray haired & the other one belonging a young man - They had a severe scuffle before they got the young one killed, he had nearly overpowered one of the men who wounded him when another of his friends came to his assistance & together both dispatched him - They also killed one Woman, they met them coming towards the Slave Lake House, as they supposed to Trade as they had a few Beaver skins with them, with hatchets, Ice chissels &c marked on them, probably those were the articles they wished to purchase they met them to the Westward of the Slave Lake, coming down a river that fills into it - They were of the dogribbed tribe - & use Canoes - They got from

September Those they killed. Several arrows shod with a kind of hard stone resembling flint a Bow or 2 of very clumsy workmanship - a small old Knife & a Bayonet made by themselves from either an Ice chissel or a Hatchet, but both of them very rudely constructed - it was 22 nights since they killed those people & they appeared very much elated at their success - barbarous rascals! - As they had no ammunition & Tobacco, I gave them 10 Ball, (they having Powder of their own) & 14 Inches of Tobacco, & they gave me the rumpeled boiled Beaver & about 1 ½ lbs of Salt, which they told me was every thing eatable in their possession - they had suffered great hardships for want of food during the greatest part of the time they were on this expedition. The meat I got from them was very acceptable, as I much stood in need of it having these 2 days past had only the Leg of one Goose - which to an european is but small allowance - as to the Indians they are in general from their earliest infancy used to go without for 2 or 3 days frequently & some times nearly double that time; as when they have any thing they can never rest till all is consumed, it is always with them either a feast or a famine - The Chepowyans I was with was very near killing all the Crees on account of an Old Grudge as they had killed a Jepowyan 2 years ago upon a Portage - I had some difficulty in persuading them to abandon their design - The Southern Indians not knowing a single word of what the Chepowyans said, they had not the least knowledge of their intent - besides they having no Ball would have much favoured the success of the Jepowyans, & little danger could have been received from them. At night, we all slept together, & the Cree made a large fire apart from us, & sung & danced with the Scalps of the unhappy sufferers upon a pole, the greatest part of the night - & the Jepowyans at last was invited to partake of their general joy - which they kept up till near midnight when every one sought his bed at the foot of a Pine Tree - which is our only covering from all the inclemencies of the Season, until we arrive where (Thock, or the Paps, the man that has the Care of me) his Tent is at the Slave Lake –

September 12th Monday - At Sun rise, we parted from the Southern Indians, they intend going to Beaver river their country this fall - we proceeded down the Slave River & arrived at the last carrying place pretty early - (it was at the lower end of the one above we slept on last night with the Cree) this portage is nearly as long again as when we passed here in July owing to the shallowness of the water particularly at the lower end, about 10 miles below, the men all went on hunting but returned with only one partridge, which was roasted & divided amongst 10 people - very little to each ones share, however they so far favour me that I got a whole leg. - The men was absent hunting 7 hours.
13th Tuesday - Went about 4 miles in the morning & the men all went again on hunting & had no better luck than yesterday - lay by at the mouth of a small river on W side* which opens South mentioned on my former passage down this river - in the Summer - in the evening got again into our Canoes & drove down the river & fortunately the Inds killed 1 large & one small Beaver, which made all hands of us a Good Supper; which we have wanted these several days past - Strong Gale at SSE -
14th Wednesday - Yesterday one Canoe (Ned Cosh) left us he is going direct to the Slave Lake house - & we intend going down a river to the Westward if this that falls into the same lake, where it is a plentiful place for both Buffalo & Beaver. - In the forenoon we embarked & went down the river & put up on the East end of the Long Portage that carries out of this into the Ezzid da gal la dezza or Buffalo river in the Evening -
15th Thursday - Yesterday Strong Gale at NNE - In the morning shot one ¾ Beaver, one Swan & one Goose at 9 AM proceeded over the Portage hauling the canoes on the ground like a sled - and some few light articles in it & the other carried the things - & hauled the Canoe by turns which was the hardest job of the two - Went WSW 900 yards fine barren ground, then came to a small swamp where we put every thing into the Canoes & paddled across it SW 370 Yds, then carried every thing thro a poplar hummock 140 yds good, then came to another deep swamp & put every thing into the Canoe as before & paddled across it 430 yards, & entered a kind of Creek or narrow

*[Salt river 36 miles from its mouth to the Salt hillocks which the Canadians go too for Salt. Vast quantities of excellent salt there]

September swamp 210 yds WSW, & carried all thru a small hummock of Pine & Poplar 20 yards, then entered another swamp or narrow kind of lake, about 100 yards wide clear of grass, deep, & clear water, paddled along it WbN ⅓ & got there

Then along as before WNW ¼ NW ½ & arrived at the East end of the longest part of the Carrying place about 1 PM, & put up – this lake continues about ½ mile farther on & probably farther, the extent of it I could not see for the Grass - All the men when we debarked went on hunting but returned without success - I went along part of the Portage to examine it & found it as below, by 390 Pine & Poplar, 500 Yds Do - 500 Do only rather smaller wood - 500 Yds very bad carrying all windfall wood, & the track all thru but narrow, owing to it, being seldom gone thru, came to the side of a pretty extensive fine open dry barren ground plain - Course & Compass W - 1890 thro' the Woods - Wind Easterly gentle breezes, Hazy dark weather except about noon - In the Evening I went alone in a canoe to a Beaver house - having 3 Portages to make - I shot one Beaver & returned to my companions the Jepowyans very dark at night - several Beaver houses in these Swamps we Passed in the forenoon - we carried 300 yards more, on the East side the portage out of the Slave river, upon the mud owing to the shallowness of the Water in that River -

16th Friday - Rain & Loud peals of Thunder & very vivid lightning in the Night - at 8 am set off over the Portage & carried every thing thro' the Woods as mentioned yesterday; then hauled the Canoe across the Plain WNW 2 ¼ & came to a swamp about 1/3 of a mile from the Woods on the West side the plain & put our Canoes into it which here runs nearly N & South –

All the men went on hunting & the Women & myself took the Canoes thro' the Swamp, which became in a little distance a creek about 10 yards wide clear of Grass, but little or no current - went along it, very short turnings & crooked 6 miles making a SSW 2 ½ mile course, & came to a Beaver dam, which we pulled down, & floated the Canoes out of the Creek into the Buffalo river - by breaking the dam down we avoided a Portage of SW ½ mile thro' fine barren ground - all below the

September 16th the Beaver dam was dry before we broke it down, put up at the junction of the river & creek about 4 PM The men returned from hunting in the wood but killed nothing - altho they saw a good heard of Buffalo. Part of the land on the Eastern side where we hauled our Canoes over lately burnt; at night, Thook our Pilot Shot 2 old Beavers,

De hal aquilae 75°.55'.40" –
+ 2.45
75.58.25 Lat. 60°.21'.38"

In clearing a place to take an observation, for want of a Watch to advertise me when near the Meridian, I noted the Compass, after making a proper allowance for the variation Easterly & set up a Mark in order to clear all the intervening objects away & to shew me nearly the time when I was to observe - this method I used with success all the winter. –

17th Saturday - A Continual rain all Day, did not move.

18th Sunday - The rain still continues without any intermission, it began on Sunday night about 12 OClock & continued until 4 AM on the 19th Inst. We having no tent & nothing as a substitute for it to protect us from the rain, during all this time we were all so much wet as if we had been ducked in the river - very disagreable - the Canoes are so very small that after we had put some of our small tukes under it, there was not room for us to ly under also - The Indians notwithstanding the continual heavy rain at Beaver houses, both yesterday & this Day, but got nothing owing to their Guns not giving quick fire, on account of the Wet – The Wind during the rain Westerly. -

19th Monday - about 9 AM got underway, went down the Ezzid da gal la dezza or Buffalos river, which is about 10 or 12 Yards wide, pretty easy current, a deal of green water growing at the bottom of the River, & the water of a peculiar taste, somewhat brackish & not good to drink. - Small Pine Asp bush & along the banks - great numbers of beaver houses, in it - in some reaches lower down that was not more than ½ mile long I have counted 9 different houses all well stocked with Beaver - a more plentiful place, I never before saw, or indeed any way approaching to it – NbW ¼ - NNW ½ - NW⅓– NWbS ¼ - W.N & NW ⅓ - NW W ¼ - WNW ½ - S & SSW ¼ - WbS ½ - WbN ¼ - N, W, & SWbW ¼ a creek falls into this river in the left hand - opens SSW. & containing about ⅓ as much water as this river, put up here - & the Men in Buffalo hunting, & I employed myself very necessarily in drying my

September wet Clothes - In the evening the men returned, having killed nothing – altho they had fired several shots at Buffalo - however my Canoe mate killed a young Bull & brot a load of the meat home as we are all in much need, the rest will be brought tomorrow - it is a good way off - The Pilot also broke the leg of another one in the morning shot one Beaver. - In the Evening I went to a Beaver house but had no luck.

20th Tuesday - My Canoe mate, two women & myself went for the remainder of the Bull he killed yesterday - being NEbE 6 miles off - this fine barren ground on the East side the river - we returned at 7 PM being all very much fatigued in carrying each a heavy load that distance - The other men on hunting & had killed nothing except the one that the Pilot broke the leg of yesterday.

21st Wednesday - My Canoe mate & myself, by the directions of the Pilot went to the Bull killed yesterday, but the Wolves had eat the whole animal except one leg & 1 shoulder in the night - The Wolves are very numerous about here - Went to it WSW 1 ¼ –

Men on hunting but killed nothing - the Buffalo are pretty plentiful, but the Jepowyans are such very indifferent hunters - Women employed Splitting & Drying meat. we are now living in a very plentiful manner - to make up for the very short allowance, we have generally have had these many days past a variety of weather yesterday - at noon this Day the Sky cleared & is pretty warm the country & season considered.

22nd Thursday –

All hands employed drying the meat & at 3 PM, we embarked & went down the river WbN ¼ - WNW ½ - NW ½ - NW ½ - NW ¼ - SSW ¼ - NWbW ⅓ - NWbN ½ - NWbW ¼ a strong point on the East side - WSW ¼ - WbN ¼ - WSW ¼ - W ¼ - WbN ⅛ a strong point on the East side WSW, W & WbNW ½ - SSW, W & SW ⅓ - W ¼ - WNW ¾ - NWbN ¼ - NWbW ¼ - NWbW ¼ - NWbN & N ¼ - NWbW ¼ & put up at 7 ¾ PM - so very dark that we had some trouble to get firewood - shot 1 small beaver, as we paddled, this river ever since the creek fell into it mentioned on the 19th Inst - is from 20 to 23 yards wide, fine grassy low bank, Cloudy day, fresht about noon – foreday windy - the evening Calm. –

September 23rd Friday - at 8am got underway (being very early with the Jepowyans) Went NNW ¼ - WNW & NWbN ⅓ - WSW, S & SW ½ - W. WSW & SW ½ - SSW & SSE ¼ - WSW & SSW ⅓ - SWbW ⅓ - SW & SWbW ¼ - W. WSW & SW ½ - SWbS ¼ - WOS ¼ - SW ¼ - WNW ¼ - NW & ENE ⅓ - NWbN ⅓ - W ¼ - NE ¼ - WbN ¼ - N ⅓ - NWbN ⅓ - SW ⅓ - N ⅓ - ENE, N & NW ¼ - NNW ⅓ - NWbE ¼ - NW ¼ a kind of small creek on East side - NW ¼ - WNW ⅓ - WSW ¼ - NWbW & NNW ⅓ - NWbW ¼ - NE W ¼ - NWbW ¾ - N ¼ & put up - The river rather narrower the latter part of yesterday & this day, & the current rather quicker, The men went on hunting on the West side & killed a Young Bull, about a mile off which we directly fetched, pretty good meat - Banks of the river rather steeper than before, Fine barren ground on the West side near the river, great numbers of Buffalo tracks on both sides of the river & vast numbers of Beaver Houses all along, the Indians taking little notice of them as they kill Buffalo. Strong breezes at NNW, Cloudy, with a smart shower of Snow before we embarked in the morning.

24th Saturday

* Also 4.15 should perhaps be used
to the 2 last Observations.

Women splitting & Drying meat, & the men on Hunting - only Beavers.

25th Sunday - Sharp frost last night with a continual Snow & Hail until 2 PM, afternoon fine & warm & the Snow all vanished. Men on Hunting Buffalo, & in the Evening at Beaver Houses, but at neither had they any luck.

26th Monday - Sharp frost in the night, with clear freezing weather all Day - Yesterday & this Day fresh breezes at the Northward.

Men all on hunting on the East side of the river, but killed nothing - Women Drying meat & making ready to embark tomorrow.

27th Tuesday - Snow from midnight until 2 PM, which lay on the Ground Rain all afternoon & all night - Did not embark for the bad weatr -

28th Wednesday - Rain, Snow & Sleet until 3 PM, when it cleared & we got underway & went WNW ¼ - NNE to NNW ¼ - NW ¼ - NNW ⅓ - NW 1 - NWbW ¼ - WNW ¼ - NWbW ¾ - NW ⅓ - NW 10 ¼ - NWbW ⅓ - NW 1 - NWbW ¼ - & came to the first small rapid we have seen as yet in this river - W to N ¾ in short turnings - NW ¼ - NNW ⅓ - NWbW ¼ - W ⅓ - NW ½ - WSW ⅓ - W ¼ - WSW ¾ & put up Got one ¾ & one ½ Beaver.

September 29th Thursday - Snow all night & till 1 PM - In the afternoon strong Gales from the West, very disagreeable weather, as we have nothing to protect us in the least from the inclemency of the weather; which is now severe, in the Evening the Gale abated & began again to Snow; did not move owing to the Severity of the Weather, the Men at Beaver houses to shoot them, as they usually do in the fall - but had no luck - not coming out of their Houses until too late to see well to take good aim at them.
30th Friday - At 8 ½ AM got underway - went WSW ¼ - W 1 ½ - WNW 1, a Creek on W side opens SSE about 8 Yards wide, good water - SWbS ¼ - WSW ⅓ - SW ⅓ - W to SW ¾ - SW ¼ - WSW ¼ - SW ¼ - SWbS ¼ - SSW ¼ - SW ¼ - WSW ¼ - WSW ¼ - SW ⅓ - N & NNW ⅓ - NWbW ¼ - WbN ¼ - NWbW ¼ , barren ground on both sides of the river, low willows on East Side & no pine &c – WNW 1, a small rapid - WNW ¼ - NWbW ½ - WNW with small variations 2 miles, & we were under to necessity to put a shore, it snowing so very fast, as we could not see 40 yards before us, at noon - Pretty good pine the latter part of last days paddle & this day Snow all day without any intermission, fresh breezes from the West, cold frosty weather, our wet clothing & the cold weather makes it very bad for us & gives us all a Cold & is disagreeable in every respect - yesterday & this Day the Ice driving in the river - Snow 8 Inches deep on the Ground – our Canoe is become so very leaky this severe weather that we are very frequently obliged to go on shore to empty out the Water, which is a disagreeable job on account of so much Snow & Cold - we have no pitch to repair the Canoe with - Got one ¾ Beaver.
October 1st Saturday - Snow all last night & until noon this Day, then became severe, clear & little wind - a great number of Ducks in the river - all the small lakes & swamps being frozen up - a great many Swans yesterday & this day flying to the Southward - Snow nearly a foot deep - obliged to make large fires all round about our Canoes, to thaw the Ice out of them before we can embark - at 2 PM got underway went WbS ½ - WNW ¼ - SWbS ⅓ - WbN to NW ⅓ - N ¼ - WbN ½ - WSW ¼ - NW ½ an open place about 60 Yards wide & stony shore - SWbS to NW ¾ - NNW to SSW ½ - WSW ¼ - SSW ⅛ – a Small river on West side, opens SSE about 8 Yards wide good deep water - SW ¼ - NW ¼ - W ⅔ - NW ¼ & put up at 4 PM. The Men went after the

October the Tracks of some Buffalo, that was fresh in the Snow, but could not come up with any of them - a small Creek & about 200 yards within on the West side a small Lake where we put up - Got 1 Porcupine

2nd Sunday - Got underway at 6 AM, & went NWbN 1 – WbS ½ - NW ¼ - & put up. Men on hunting on both sides of the river & those on the West side were more successful, than the others, they killed 1 good fat Cow. - At Noon it rather thawed & the Snow fell from the Trees - & then froze again at night -

3rd Monday - Went to fetch the Cow that was killed yesterday, SW 5 ½ - to the edge of a <u>very extensive plain</u> not a single tree to be seen as far as the eye could reach to the W & WNW. & extends probably very near the vicinity of the Slave Lake. We have now all our Canoes as full of meat as they can conveniently carry, being of a very small size - Wind West dull freezing weather - saw a number of Buffalo on the large plain but could not approach them within shot - very fine dry ground apparently all the Plain.

4th Tuesday - Rubbed all the seams of our Canoes over with Fatt as the late severe weather has cracked all the Pitch & made them very leaky - the fat in cold weather is preferable to pitch, but it soon rubs off on touching the least thing. at ¼ PM got underway & went N ¼ a rapid & a small Grass Island, river here rather wide – NE ¼ a rapid & steep bank – WNW ¼ - SW ⅓ – W ⅓ – WbS ½ - W ¼ - WNW ⅓ two rapid – WbS ⅓ - WSW to W ⅓ – WNW ⅓ – WNW ⅓ - W to NWbW ⅓ – WbS ⅓ - SW to NW ⅓ – W ¼ - WNW ⅓ – SW ¼ - a large plain of Barren ground on the West side – WSW ¼ small rapid – NE ¼ - SW to NE ⅓ a small rapid – WSW ¼ a small creek on West side, & put up on the East side – Wind Rather dull freezing Weather –

* rather dim.

October 5th Wednesday – Snow all last night & until 9 am – when it abated and we got underway – went W ¼ - NWbW ⅓ – NWbW ½ - NW ⅓ – NNW ½ - NW ¼ - WbNW ¼ - SWbSE 1 ⅓ – NW ½ - NWbW ½ - NWbN ⅓ – NWbW ¼ - NbW ¾ - NW 13 – ENE ¼ - NW ⅓ – ENE ¼ - NW ⅓ – SbW ½ - WNW ½ - N ⅓ – NW ½ a long rapid about 30 yards long, then below, shoal & strong – W to NbW ¾ a small rapid – NW ⅓ – WbN ½ - NNW 1/3, steep banks upon both sides which continues a good way down the river – N ¼ - NW ⅓ – NW 1 – SWbW ¼ - NW 1 – W ½ - WSW ½ - W ¼ - S ⅓ – NW ¼ - N ¼ - W ½ - NbW ⅓ – WNW ⅓ – NWbW to NW 1/3, river narrow, & a large pine tree gotten down quite across the river, which we were obliged to cut in pieces to make way for our Canoes – W ¼ - WSW ¼ - W ¼ - NW ¼ - W to SW ⅛ – SWbW ¼ - WSW ¼ - W ¼ - small creek on West side, about 8 yards wide flows SSE. Good water – WNW ⅓ – W ¼ - WNW ½ - WbN ¾ a fresh quantity of burnt wood on the West side a good way up the river & all along the river here about 80 yards wide below the East Creek – NWbN 2 ½ - two small creeks one on each side the river exactly opposite to each other one opens SSW & the other NNS – NW ¾ - WbS ¾ - W ⅔ – NW ⅓ – NWbW ½ - NbW 1 – NW ½ - & put up on the West side about 1 mile from the entrance of the Slave Lake – good stout woods upon both sides of the river this day & the river here nearly ¼ mile wide – The beaver houses more scarce than usual – Snow in the evening & cloudy severe weather – Killed one swan –

6th Thursday – Went to the edge of the lake & found it froze more than one mile from the shore, so that we cannot proceed any farther with our Canoes - & are necessitated to remain here until all sets completely frozen & then haul our things to where our Pilot left his things in the summer. Went along the lake to the Westward & made the following observations

October 7th Friday - Snow until 3 P.M. then cleared up, cold freezing weather, river driving full of Ice - in the afternoon we broke our Canoes & made a kind of Tent of them along with pine branches, which is to be an habitation until we can pass over the Ice - it had a door way or open space at each end by of an oblong form -

8th Saturday - the river set fast. we slept very comfortably in our new dwelling being the first kind of shelter we have had from the weather either night or day since we left the Athapescow 4th of last Month–

9th Sunday - Got one Porcupine –

10th Monday - Bad weather every day, altho' the nights are mostly all clear & sharp - on the 8th Inst. the Ice in the Lake froze a long way from the shore but heavy gales this day at NW, broke a deal of it in pieces again.

11th Tuesday - Light breezes at SSE. cloudy weather - could not get a sight of the lunar Eclipse - Set up a few martin traps.

12th Wednesday –

Not very clear. Went round my Martin Traps & got 1 Martin. The Women employed making Bone broth in a Birch rind kettle, by heating stones red hot & frequently turning them into it - which makes a tolerable shift for want of a Metal one - we are a very poor set, not having a Kettle amongst all of us - we eat our meat always roasted for want of a Kettle to boil it in - making every thing in readiness to walk towards the Slave Lake House tomorrow.

13th Thursday - Took the following observations for latitude all being Double Meridian Altitudes - viz -

October at 8 am got all things packed up and in readiness, & set off over the Ice down the Shore towards the Moose Islands, we carry every thing on our backs, having no Sledges made, the Ice being so very slippery that we got many falls & made it very fatiguing particularly for the Thighs. Put up at 5 PM, went as under –

The 3 Islands marked A B & C are called the Moose Islands, from A to B is 3 Miles & from B to C ¾ of a Mile - the 𝒫B is pretty large. & a Canadian house has been built upon it & inhabited from 1794 to 1799 - The Small Hill near the Mouth of Ezzed da gal la dezza appears from D where we put up Like an Island

14th Friday - Set off at 8 am & went along the Lake until we came to the Moose Islands, where it was not frozen over, so we crossed that the Point of wood until we got to the small Island, just round the Point & went along the Lake as under

Between the large Moose 𝒫& the main shore only about 40 yards, a deal of Burnt woods upon it & very stony - vast quantities of drift wood along the shore yesterday & this day - piled up in many places above 20 feet thick. Killed a Porcupine yesterday & 1 this day - made a hut of Drift wood & grass as the weather appeared bad, put up at the Mouth of the Slave River pretty late in the Evening - very slippery walking upon the Ice as yesterday - Stopped at the Moose 𝒫ds about 1 hour & I went upon the larger one, over very thin Ice, with 2 Long poles in my hands & flatt on my belly –

October 15th Saturday - In the morning the men went to look at the river, near the Lake & found it impassable, not yet being froze over, - on account of the late high Westerly winds - in the afternoon the men went for Beach to make sledges, & very fortunately met with one of their Countrymen, that was going to the side of the Lake for some Goods of his, that he had left there some time ago - he informed them that there were several Tents about 8 miles up the river & that the Ice opposite their Tents were passable over it.

16th Sunday - Got underway at 8 ½ AM & proceeded up along the river & arrived at the Tents about noon - 10 Canoes here that were stopped; by the Ice on the early setting in of the Fall - they are luckily tolerably stocked with Fresh & Dry meat - They inform us that the Canadians had not arrived with Goods at their house at Slave Lake 3 Days ago, & doubtless they will not as all the Smaller branches are froze over, & great quantities of floating Ice driving down the larger ones. - Fresh breezes at SSE, with Snow most part of the day - cold freezing weather - The Indians are very busy making Snow Shoes & Sledges, ready against the Large Branch gets froze over – In the afternoon we made a hut of Pine branches for our habitation, the Tent & belonging to the Indian I am with are at Tall chu dog ga – about 50 miles yet farther off, to the Eastward along the Lake

17th Monday - Nothing particular

18th Tuesday - I went a little up the river & built 12 Martin Traps.

19th Wednesday - Visited my Traps & got one Martin - Indians also making Traps.

20th Thursday - The Indians burnt the Greater part of their Canoes - as they said no person should receive any benefit from them & that they would not be here next year to use them, Moved 2 miles up the river - One Sent along with the others & the 2 young men, that paddled with me in the Summer are gone for the Slave Lake House - The Indians killed a Black Bear in his vault about 3 miles from the Tent. -

21st Friday - Accompanied the Indian men that went to fetch the Meat of the Bear killed yesterday - The skin they burnt & all the large bones were cut out & thrown to all the four cardinal points - a piece of superstition of them Went round my Traps, but got nothing.

October 22nd Saturday - A pretty smart thaw, that overflowed the Ice - these several Days past fresh breezes at SE clear sharp weather. Cannot purchase any Leather from the Indians for no consideration, they wanting to make Tents of it - I am in a very bad situation for the want of that very useful article at this Season having neither Toggs nor Shoes - on the 10th Inst. I was under the necessity of cutting off both Sleeves of my Leather Coat to make a pair of Shoes -
23rd Sunday - Moved up the River about 2 miles to a Large Island & got a beaver
24th Monday - Nothing particular
25th Tuesday - After dark a Canadian & a chepowyan arrived here, the Canadian is come for his Wife, who was remaining with these Indians all Summer, during his journey to & from the Grand Portage - he says that 3 Canoes with Mr Daniel McKenzie & John Findlay embarked from the Athapescow, & that 2 of the Canoes got over taken by the Ice at the upper end of the Falls & that the other one got a little way below the Last carrying place - Thook at a Beaver house & killed one.
26th Wednesday - These 2 last nights slept in one of the Indians Tents being the only times I have had that comfort since I left our house at the Athapescow At Noon we all got underway & proceeded down the edge of the River very near to the Lake, & there found a Canoe which we crossed the River with, altho it was attended with much danger owing to the great quantity of driving Ice
27th Thursday - Proceeded for the Slave Lake House & put up upon the Willow Island in the mouth of a bay where the Observation for latitude was taken in the Summer - I broke thro the Ice but luckily the water was not deep.
28th Friday - In the morning got underway & arrived at the Canadian House at Noon - exceeding bad walking the latter part, no Ice near the Shore & necessitated to carry Sledges & all thro very thick woods upon our backs, a pretty good distance & had the misfortune to break the Bottle that contained my Quicksilver for the Artificial Horizon, but luckily none of it was spilt being well rapped up within a Shirt - at the House I procured another Bottle which held the most of it & the rest I tyed up in a bit of Leather I being in such a very poor situation, having neither Shoes, Socks, Mittens nor any thing to make them of - I offered to trade a small blanket & a moose Skin from the Canadian Master Mr Daniel McKenzie with Martin

Martin Skins, That I had trapped & got from Indians in the fall - but he would neither Trade, with me, or give me those necessaries, that I was so greatly in want of - however with frequent solicitations he at last condescended to give me a pair of Shoes, two old Socks one of which was very much burnt & about 9 Inches of their worst cloth. such was the generosity of that man - for his being so much against supplying me, with those few things I cannot conceive, unless it was his jealousy at my accompanying the Inds & by that means induce several of them to Trade at our house -

29th Saturday - Remained at the House, which, I eat & slept in during my short stay - The people here very poorly off for provisions - large Ice driving on the Lake, that they cannot venture to set nets, & most part of their dependence is upon Fish - Strong breezes at NW., hazy weather a great swell in the Lake - the Deep Branch of the Slave River set fast the 27th Inst. the day after we crossed it.

30th Sunday - Mr McKenzie & Findlay with a few men that got froze in below the house carrying place, walked down along shore, some times upon the Ice & more frequently thru the Woods all the way to the house here, they suffer innumerable hardships both for cold, hunger & hard fatigue - They have little goods here, not being able to bring any along with them - when the Ice becomes firm they are to fetch it down upon sledges - at 11 am Thook, his wife, & myself got off from the House, on our way to 'Tall chu dezza, all the others that accompanied us to the House, remains there the Canadian Master has employed them to fetch good from the Rapids. There Indians & 1 Canadian accompanied us to the Eastern branch of the Slave river, who are going for Goods - The Canadians were 2 Days wrong in their account having this only Friday - This is the first time I ever knew them wrong 2 days - but they are one frequently – Mr McKenzie says that 2 of their Canoes are froze in a good way below the Falls & that the other one at the head of them & that those people there, was very near eating one another thro' hunger - As I had in the Summer taken a sketch between the West & Eastern branches, I now omit it - & beyond to the Eastward of the East branch mark as on the other side –

October

a high point of rock & scrub pine a large *P*

bearing from this point N 20 miles.

A little round the Point 2 old Canadian Houses, one belonging to Mr Rioux & the others to Mr Cuthbert Grant of the New Concern - built in 1786 - put up near them - Good woods round the Point - & farther down a little in the Bay burnt woods - The Canadians were compelled to abandon these Houses, they could not catch any fish - which is the only thing to depend upon, amongst the Jepowyans, one man was eaten by 2 others here, thro' necessity.

31st Monday - Went as under.

The Willow Island about 200 yards from the Main, a pretty stout single pine Tree growing upon the NW end of it where I got

put up at the mouth of the river, the river not yet free over, several Swans & Ducks to be seen, & not half an Inch Snow upon the Ground, what a contrast betwixt here & the Buffalo river, altho this place lays many miles to the Northward of the latter - which set fast the 8 Inst. & not a single foul of the aquatic kind to be seen - besides the Snow there was above 10 Inches deep.

November 1st Tuesday - In the morning the Man went to examine the Ice far from the Shore & found it passable & at 2 PM we got underway & went as below

This Gruppe of small Islands appears like a point at a distance, covered with scrub pine & birch - very rocky - past these Islands the lake tends more South Easterly - at duskt in the Evening put up - found a great many Canoes here, that the Jepowyans had left in the Fall.

November 2nd Wednesday - Early in the morning the man set off in search of some of his Country men - who have been here not long ago - & had left Indian marks of the route they are gone - the Woman & myself remain here until he either returns himself or sends somebody to conduct us to the Tents.

3rd Thursday –

In the afternoon 2 young men a Boy & an old man called Nen nes, or Left handed, came to us, they are on their way to the Slave Lake House for Credit. - The Boy is to conduct the man's wife & me to the Tents which is about 20 miles off thro a very rough rocky country with entire thickets in the vallies. At short allowance only one handful of Beat meat pr Day for these several days past. - The Mouth of 'Tall che Dezza bears from where the last observation was taken 12 miles & the Kee noo - or Birch Island SSW ⅓.

4th Friday - At 9 am the men proceeded for the Slave Lake House & the Boy Woman & myself set off for the Tents - but we were obliged to carry all our things upon our backs & haul the sledges empty - there not being a sufficient quantity of Snow upon the Ground - being quite bare upon the Rock being blown off into the vallies - as the Woman & boy walked slow, I set forward by myself seeing the Track in some few places - & after going about 14 miles I found several, where the Indians had been thro. taking Beaver houses & I unluckily took a wrong one & got lost. - & slept by myself - had nothing to eat, but fortunately a few Martin salts which I had in my bag – of which I eat for supper, very uneasy at being lost.

5th Saturday - All this day I spent in a fruitless search for the right Track & in my search shot one White Partridge, but eat only half of it for supper not knowing when I could get any thing else or find the Indians.

6th Sunday - Before day light & a little after fired 3 Shots & as the morning was fine & calm I expected that the Indians would here them if they were nigh return them - but to my great mortification heard nothing - Left my Sledge - Snow Shoes - & 8 Martin Skins, behind me & hung up to a Tree & my Green Bag & Bedding I took upon my back & now determined to tread my foot steps back to the edge of the Slave Lake & wait the return of those men that went to the Canadian House the 2nd Inst. There was also there

November There one moose & 1 Black Bear, which the Indians had killed in the Fall & could not conveniently take away - they had built a small log house over it to keep it from being eaten by the wild animals - & intended to return for it so soon as there was good hawling - At this place I determined to remain until I found Indians – My sledge altho hawling it empty - was very inconvenient always catching hold in the thickets - which made me leave it - After having gone back thro my old Track towards the Lake 3 miles I very fortunately fell into a fresh Slick Track which I supposed to belong to the Woman & the Boy - particularly as I could see only the footsteps of 2 people - I followed this Track & arrived at the Indians Tents about 9 AM - Course from where the last observation was taken at the Lake - to the Tents about ESE 14 & SbE 7 miles I intend going tomorrow to fetch my things that I left behind this morn'g - Found 1 Tent & 1 Brush hut with one family in it when I arrived, they are very badly of for provisions - not knowing the proper method to take Beavers Slept in a Tent which I have not done since I left the House 4th Sep except 2 night the 24th & 25th of last month - which has been very severe bad weather of Lake - but thank God I do not find at present the least hurt from it altho' very disagreeable at the time. My Tobacco of all sorts expended, that I now cannot fill a pipe to an Indian; -

7th Monday - Yesterday I took at a Beaver house & killed one ¾ & one ½ Beaver These Indians we found here had Thooks Tent with them - & the Tent & Brush hut intend to pitch towards the Canadian House tomorrow, to get credit – Then Indians took up a hoard of Beat meat & Fatt & gave us a little of it - Also killed one Porcupine - Fetched my things that I left behind yesterday about 6 miles in a direct course. -

8th Tuesday - Light Snow in the night. The Indians fetched for the House & left us alone, Thook, his Wife & myself - a small company of us.

9th Wednesday - At 9 ½ AM got underway & went SE 5 over huge rocks & thro almost impenetrable thickets in the vallies - Then 3 miles up a Creek about 10 yards wide, very crooked Short Turnings - Light Snow in the Day - very cloudy both day & night for some time past. -

10th Thursday - The Indian & his Wife at a Beaver house & fortunately killed four ½ & two Old Beavers - we are very badly of for want of a kettle, to either Cook or make Water in - we are obliged to roast all - & make

November make water by immersing red hot stones into a roggan of Snow, - or else when the Snow is hard by sticking a lump of it upon a stick before the fire & setting a small roggan dish of Birch rind below it - I have neither Shoes - Stockings, Mittins or Trousers - or any thing to make them off & those I am with cannot well assist me - he lent me his old Stockings & a Blanket I am obliged to wrap about me like a petticoat & the other one there over my body - to preserve me from the Cold when we pitch
13th Sunday - Nothing remarkable since the 10th Inst. Snow fell yesterday about 7 Inches, which will make it good hauling for sledges – These 2 days past the man has been at Beaver houses but got no luck Moved N 6 ¾ miles to Beaver houses, but no success - left the Creek when we set off, which runs nearly North & South.
14th Monday Man & Wife at Beaver houses but no luck
15th Tuesday - Moved back along our old Track SWbW 2 to the Creek then WbS 2 ½ to another branch of the Tall chu dezza, about 30 yards wide - low banks, scrubby Juniper - very severe clear sharp weather - I was almost froze in bed in the night - I never suffered such severe cold before - I was obliged 3 or 4 times to get up in the night & make on a small fire - nothing but small wood we had & that but little, & I looked out anxiously for day light long before it appeared.
16th Wednesday - Got off pretty early and went up the same branch as the latter part of yesterday - SEbS 9 miles SSW ⅓ & came to the main branch which is about 400 yards wide, went up it SSE 3 & put up a little below a heavy rapid and at the mouth of the Gin dezza or Musk rat river where we found one Tent, contg 1 Woman & 3 Children, the men gone to the Slave Lake House for Credits - in the evening they returned, The Musk rat river at the mouth about 60 yards wide, hold banks & no rapids in it by the Indian account; about 20 miles up there is a Portage into the Slave River about 4 or 5 miles long - a great many falls in Tall chu dezza high up - this signifies in the Northern Indian tongue Red Knife. All along the east side of this river very rocky ground & extends a great distance to the Eastward by the Ind report - with wood of an inferior size –

November. Such as Birch, Pine, Juniper & Poplar - a remarkable plentiful place for Beaver Houses all in the small lakes which are very numerous - but are very difficult to kill owing to the rocky situation of the Country - the Beaver gets into the fissures & holes of rocks & cannot be got at by any means that the Jepowyans are acquainted with. To the S & Westwards of this river the face of the country is quite different - being generally a level country clothed with good stout Timber - & very seldom a stone is to be found - a plentiful place for martins on the West side Tall chu dezza - few amongst the rocky ground.

18th Friday - Nothing Particular yesterday –

Doubtful

Did not observe the Planet to rise - by lighting the lens seeing the back of the Instrument the adjustment altered - Went on Fishing & got 3 small Trout in Angling at the confluence of the Musk rat & Tall chu dezza - very poor times - we were under the necessity of roasting a few of Buffalo Skin (called a nae kew sun) that had served to lye upon this long white past - having nothing else to eat.

19th Saturday

I had went to Gabbles Tent to fetch some of his Ionis or Goods - all the Women employed fishing & caught a pretty good quantity of Jack Fish - at the mouth of Gin dezza - The Nennee, & 2 Canadians & one Woman came to us, the Canadians are to remain about 10 Days or a fortnight & then return - The principal part of their errand I suppose is to endeavour to debauch the Indians & particularly the one I am with to send me home - that they may get all the Skins they kill - a common custom of the Canadians.

20th Sunday –

All the Women fishing & caught about 100 lb of Jack - very good luck - 2 large ones not less than 40 lbs each - Indians making Snow Shoes & Sledges - & occasionally hunting birds getting nothing

21st Monday –

November 22nd Tuesday –

Tuesday - D. h at. 9 L L 43. 0. 45
+ 10. 40
Lat. 61. 4. 52 (9. 6 am) 43. 19. 25

Thook returned yesterday accompanied by a young man I called Paddy - he is to remain with us all winter - Caught a tolerable quantity of Fish - very severe weather lately - I had no Thermometer with me or I should have kept a daily account of the cold.

23rd Wednesday - A Canadian & his wife arrived - the others it is said will be here tomorrow - one of them speaks a little English - caught a good quantity of Fish - which serves us very well - as the Indians of Lake have killed nothing

24th Thursday - Nothing Particular.

25th Friday - Snow all night & most part of the Day - Gabble & his Family arrived, so that we all make a pretty full Tent. - This Man is the person I remained with the last winter.

27th Sunday - Nothing Particular yesterday - caught very few fish - Moved up Musk rat river, leaving one Tent behind - Went up it W 4 ½ miles very crooked short turnings - we have lived upon Fish solely ever since the 19th Inst. & very fortunately that we had them - very little current in this River - Men on hunting but returned without success.

28th Monday - Moved about 2 miles higher up the River - Men on hunting - Gabble killed a Cow & one of the others shot a Wolverine - which we snapped up before it was well warm thro - a delicious morsel!!! but what cannot hunger do - We were under the necessity of Leaving the Beaver Ground on the East side Tall chee Dezza, for want of Line to set our Iron shoes with - as very few animals of that description are to be found in those parts - No Catts on the East side where the Beaver are - Wind West a strong Gale, before we got away in the morning we had only one Beaver Tail amongst 10 of us - a very small share to each! - River not more than 20 Yards wide - Course this Fetching WSW.

29th Tuesday - Went up the river making a WSW Course 5 miles & crept thro' a point of woods on the South side 150 Yds over - which saved us 2 miles walking the river making a large sweep & coming nearly to the same place again – one man went & bro't home a load of meat from the Cow that was killed yesterday - The rest will be brought Tomorrow - Got a Cap made of a Beaver Skin – after the Manners of the women which is very well adapted for keeping the snow from ones neck going thro' the woods

November 30th Wednesday - All hand went & brought home the meat & one young man carried a load to those we left at the mouth of this river. They are nearly starving - the Fish have greatly fallen off of late.
December 1st Thursday –

Thursday – Decl. ☉ 22 13° 36' 15"
+ 10.40
13.46.55
Lat. 61° 2' 33"
Observed the Sun to Set S 15° West
Variation of the Compass 24° 28' Easterly – Decl. ☉ 22 41° 5' 0"
+ 10 40
41 15.40 Lat 61.3.39

Observed the Sun to Set S 15° West
Variation of the Compass 24°.28' Easterly
The Latitude deduced from the Morns altitude to be prepared. - Men busy making Snow Shoes &c.
2nd Friday - The Indians made, to me a new fashioned Kettle, of the Ponch of the Cow; by making a hole in the ground of about 2 feet diameter & one foot deep to support the bag & the 4 corners were propped up with sticks set in the ground in 6 or 8 places keeping the mouth extended about 2 feet wide - They broke the Bones of the Buffalo, & made macron fatt - boiled meat – made Broth all in this uncommon apparatus, by immersing hot stones frequently into it - every one of us ladled a stone for the above purpose, or for the Birchrind Kettle; or for occasionally making water - a Parchment skin is sometimes used for the purposes of cooking in by them - This is only used when they have a good quantity to Cook - on other occasions when little the Birch rind Kettle is used.
3rd Monday - Nothing particular since Friday. Men employed all this intermediate time making Snow Shoes &c. - Moved up the river WSW 4 miles - Calm clear, severe weather these several days past. a number of Moose Tracks all about & the men on hunting but with out the desired success owing to too little wind which is very bad hunting that Animal on account of its very quick hearing – A Beaver house close by the Tent & only got one ½ Beaver out of it – Killed one Porcupine -
4th Tuesday - All hands at Beaver houses & only got 2 large Beaver.
5th Wednesday - All the men on hunting but returned the same as they went away - Strong Gale at SE with Snow all Day - in the Evening rained a little & very warm weather.

December 8th Thursday - Moved about 6 miles WSW up the river - crossed over a point of wood on the South side, (burnt) about ⅓ mile thro' by doing which we saved 3 miles had we kept the river - Snow in the afternoon & warm weather -

9th Friday - Moved 8 miles West up the river, river here not more than 8 yards wide, & the water very swampy tasted.

10th Saturday - The men on hunting these 2 days past but no luck – moved WbN 2 miles & came to the East side the Portage out of this into the Slave River - course in the last reach joining the carrying place NW *p* Compass - left the musk rat river & went on the South side SW 1 mile & put up on the Portage - Paddy killed a fatt doe moose about ¼ mile from where we pitched our Tent - Our allowance these 2 days past being reduced to a handful of Beat meat without any fatt - such are the inconsiderate way of the Indians that while they have any victuals they eat in a manner night & day - never thinking of eating regular - The musk rat river very crooked short turning all the way from its mouth to the Carrying place, a little above which it loses itself in several small swamps - plenty of water in it for Indian canoes, only - upon the Carrying place about ½ mile from where we left the musk rat river is the largest Beaver House that ever I saw & the Indians with me said that it also far surpassed in size any they had seen - I had on this account the curiosity to measure it & found it to be 44 yards in circumference & 18 feet high - situated in the middle of a small Swamp, but appeared to us to have had no water in it these few years back - The house was old & no Beaver in it - it was not a collection of Houses joined together as the Beaver some times make as the families of the Beaver grow up - but one single entire house, & had been made in one season - on account of its prodigious size I should imagine it to have been the collective labour of nearly 20 Beaver - Fetched home the Doe moose - The men on Hunting & some of them saw the Slave river at the West end of this Portage - it is wet & swampy the greater part of it, with a good deal of kind lake wood & small scrubby Pines & Juniper also plenty of the Country tea or Mis sa kay frusk kay - a small shrub –

December 11th Sunday

The Sun's Altitude with the Artificial horizon, (the one I always use) is very difficult to observe well on account of the Sun's small elevation above the horizon - & the great distance obliged to stand from the Artificial horizon. Got one ¾ Beaver - The Planets Altitude to be preferred, before the Sun's.

12th Monday

13th Tuesday Moved SbW 4 & came to a small Creek, about 8 miles wide went along it SEbE 3 ½ & put up - In the morning before we started I set off to cross the Carrying place & see the Slave River after going about 3 miles, & not seeing the river I returned, & tore my old Cotton trousers all to pieces that I threw them away as past all repair also my drawers - become quite useless this long wear - Wrap a Blanket about me like a womans Petticoat to protect me from the Cold. - remarkable warm weather since the 6th Inst. the Season & Climate considered. The Men at Beaver houses & had great luck killing five ½ & 3 old Beavers.

14th Wednesday Rain yesterday from 3 ½ to 9 AM pretty briskly - the rain falling at this season of the year, incrusts with a hard surface of Ice upon the Snow, that makes a great noise walking, which makes it very bad to approach animals - consequently makes it bad hunting until another pretty large fall of Snow - The Last Night according to the Indians invariable custom when they have any thing we had Beaver stuck upon sticks all round the fire, that we could scarcely see it - & kept eating at spells the greater part of the night - Moved along the Creek SE 1 then betwixt SWbS & SWbW 2 ½ along a kind of narrow swampy lake about 100 yards wide - Got one ½ Beaver - Light Airs at ENE.

15th Thursday

All the men on hunting & killed one Cow Buffalo - on account of the very wretched condition I am in for want of Trousers, (having nothing of the Kind,) the man I am with cut a skin out of the Bottom of his Tent to make a pair of Trousers, & upon work at them. Clear & very sharp weather.

December 16th Friday - Finished making my Leather Trowsers, which is a very great aquisition to me - broke all my needles in making them, the leather being so stiff & hard - & went to work in the Indian manner with an Awl & sinnews before I compleated them. having at first only 4 needles. Men at Beaver houses and got two ¾ Beaver.

17th Saturday - Men at Beaver houses & only got one large Beaver - Fetched home the Cow yesterday & this Day - Got one Wolverine - Gabble & his wife had a very severe quarrel, & he knocked her down with the head of the Ax that I fancied he had killed her. - The cause was, that a young man in the tent & her made several private meetings together - besides the woman pretended to have the monthly Evacuations every 10 Days, which is a custom with the Indians at those periods not to sleep or remain in the Tent which would in their opinion infallibly polute every thing, besides having bad Luck in the Chaise - they retire at those times & build a small hut heretofore in the woods for themself till it has ceased - & this pretext of hers afforded her an easy & sure method to enjoy the company of her beloved paramour very frequently. This Game being played a long Time the husband at last suspected the real cause of her pretended discharges & gave her the drubbing above mentioned All the rest of his Tent mates long knew the reason of the wife's frequent retiring for 2 or 3 days at a time, but would not acquaint him with it - & he being a simple, person, was thus so long deluded

18th Sunday –

When I came into the Tent to the fireside to read off the observation the scaffolding above, which was loaded with meat broke & fell down & drove me to the Ground, prostrate, but by the greatest good luck the Instrument was unhurt.

19th Monday –

Not very clear –

Our 2 young men went to the Slave Lake House with the best of the meat we have (I would not permit them to take any furs) to endeavour to Trade a Kettle from the Canadian Master or else take one upon credit.

December 20th Tuesday Gabbles younger brother & Din na Sleeny arrived at our Tent, they say that there are 40 Tents of Chepowyans, a little way to the Northwards of us, that they are returning from war with the Esquimaux & had killed 5 Tents of those harmless inoffensive people.

21st Wednesday

In taking the Suns altitude I made a stage about 5 feet above the ground & put the Artificial Horizon upon it, by which means I easily made a good observation. In taking the altitude of Venus, I narrowly escaped being knocked down by the falling of a Tent pole. The 2 men that visited us returned they are tenting at the West side of the Slave river upon its banks, which is no great distance off. Moved along the kind of Lake as before SSE ¾ & from SE to NWbW 2 miles - a variety of scrub woods along the edges of this Swampy Lake - got one large Beaver - The Day in this part at this Season is very short that the Indians cannot go any great distance away from the Tent to hunt.

22nd Thursday Got one large & one ¾ Beaver at 6 ½ AM the 2 men returned from the Canadian House at the Slave Lake, that went from us the 19th Inst. but they could not get a kettle on Credit as they expected, I suppose on account of them keeping me, & would prevent them from giving them any skins this Season for any thing they might have taken upon Credit. I expect now that we shall be the remainder of the Winter without that very necessary article - The Canadian Master sent the Indians about 6 Inches of B rope Tobacco.

23rd Friday

A smart shower of rain at day break, remarkable warm weather ever since the 19th Inst. - got one large Beaver –

24th Saturday

Moved SW 1 ½ , along the same kind of swampy Lake - burnt woods upon

December both sides, then left the swampy lake to the South & went WSW 1 ½ - thro' small willows & arrived on the Banks of the Slave river, crossed it West ¼ mile wide & put up on the West side, in Company with Dinna Sleeney, who has been here several days - The upper end of the Island that we slept at in the Summer, bearing NbE 2 ½ - the reach above NNE 5 - a small Island about 3 ½ mile above the large one - got the following Observation

A number of Moose & Buffalo Tracks on the NE side of the river. - A man & boy came here on a visit from the Rabbits head.

25th Sunday - Both Tents, pitched up the river 3 miles & put up on the NE side - in the morning the man & boy returned, they are come about 25 miles from the Westward - Men at Beaver houses & got one Large one ¾ & one ½ Beaver

26th Monday - Moved up thro' a small narrow swamp, that runs parallel with the river. & put up - got two large Beaver.

27th Tuesday - Moved thro' the Swamp to the head of it 1 ¼ mile, & crossed thro' the Woods ⅓ mile to the river, proceeded up the river 2 miles & put up on NE side - a French Canoe lying a little above where we broke ours upon a stick in the summer - they could proceed no farther on account of the Ice - The Ice in the river here very rough - The Indians are here they say to make expedition to see their Country men at the Falls who they say are pretty numerous.

28th Wednesday - Moved up the river three miles & put up - The woods are loaded with Ice, by the thaw & rain on the 23 Inst - very warm for the Season

29th Thursday - Moved up the river & across about 1 ¼ mile & put up on the SW side - Gave Thook 10 Ball, being the first he has got from me this winter - all his own are now expended.

30th Friday - Moved to the N side 3 miles up the river & put up opposite the large Island the Cree hunted on in the summer, on our passage up Got one large & one ¾ Beaver - Thook. killed a Cow on this side -

31st Saturday - Moved along the East side of the Large Island 2 miles & put up on the Main - Men all on hunting & killed 4 Bulls on the N side of the Island - Wind East clear morning, afterwards cloudy - very sharp weather - Fetched home the Buffalo killed yesterday - Put on a clean shirt, never shifted myself since I left the House 4th Septr - having at first only 2 Shirts & no Soap or Kettle to wash one with.

January 1st Sunday Moved - went up the river 1 ¼ mile & then N 1 rather as the in on NE side the river & put up - Brought two Buffalo to the Tents – Fresh breezes at W the forepart of the Day, latter part nearly calm, clear & very sharp weather - I went to assist getting the 2 Bulls home, being the first time I Have been to fetch meat since the winter set in - it is an invariable custom with all Indians & none more so than those I am with, that the more an European does, of work with them, the worse he is respected by them & gets generally the worst victuals & frequently but little off it; when he complies to do every thing they bid him - whereas if he stiffly refuses from the first that he is with them, they will be very kind to him, & will give him a larger allowance of provisions, than had he listened to every request of them

2nd Monday

Fetched home all the meat, - plentiful times with us now -

4th Wednesday

Nothing Particular Yesterday - Got one Porcupine - and also took the

In taking the stars altitude I got my fingers ends severely froze -

5th Thursday

The men on hunting & killed 2 moose upon the Big Island - it never rains but it pours - some times a single parting or a Beavers Tail has been all we had for a days allowance amongst 10 of us - now at present the times are different & the Inds are now wallowing up to the eyes in good meat - I wish ere long that they had not thought & wished to have been more provident - & to have provided against any future want.

6th Friday Thook killed an other moose upon the Big Island and one Porcupine, a Idn Lutherland his wife & 2 Northern Indians arrived here waiting the arrival of some other Canadians & Jepowyans, who have been gone a fortnight ago to fetch goods from the upper end of the Falls where one Canoe got froze in in the Fall.

7th Saturday Moved to the Big Island 1 ½ mile, where the 3 moose were killed - we are now all heavily laden with Provisions - which at this Cold season of the year is very fortunate for us to have such luck.

January 8th Sunday - Brought the 3 moose to the Tents - At noon arrived 2 Canadians & 4 Jepowyans with 8 sledges loaded with 14 pieces of Goods, this they have been to fetch where the Canoes was froze in last Fall.
9th Monday - Arrived this morning 2 Canadians & 2 Jepowyans with 4 sledges loaded with Trading Goods as yesterday - All their faces much froze & one of the Canadians feet, which prevented their proceeding this Day. These that arrived yesterday proceeded on their way for the Slave Lake House, & Bolyea the Carpenter went ahead with letters from the Athapescow, he left his Sledge behind & a young Jepowyan from our Tents took it to the Lake - also 2 more men took 2 sledges of meat to Trade there - they say that they will sleep 4 nights going there; There is also a good quantity of Goods remaining up the River, People at the House very badly off for living, very few fish to be taken, owing to the severity of the weather, the like before, they say that they never experienced - The Canadians made me a present of 1 ½ lb of carrot Tobacco - mine was all expended early in November – a little Tobacco to fill a pipe to an Indian occasionally is thought very much on by them.
12th Thursday - The Weather these 4 Days past the severest by a great deal than I ever experienced - very clear, & little wind - we incessantly keep on large fires, yet notwithstanding the Tent within is quite white, over - The Inds. say that they never knew the cold so very penetrating before - I went for wood across the River to make a new Sledge my old one being rendered useless - Got one ½ Beaver.
13th Friday - Made my Sledge, the weather continues excessively severe.
14th Saturday - Moved up the River 2 miles & crossed the Island 1 ¼ mile & put up on the SWest side the Island - light Snow & warm.
15th Sunday - Moved up the River 3 miles & put up on the West side on the main shore - The Island 1 ½ mile from where we put up - In the evening a young Jepowyan arrived at our Tents, in search of some of his Countrymen, to get a supply of Provisions from, Their Tent is about 10 miles NE of us & are nearly starving with hungar, & they have not even any Ammunition to kill any Animals with - he says that they will join us in a few days.

January 16th Monday — Moved across a point of Wood 3 miles, it being a long way round about by the River — The man returned back to his Tent, having been very liberally supplied by us with as much provisions as he could conveniently carry Our men on hunting every Day but without any success.
17th Tuesday — Moved up along the Side of the River 5 miles on the SWt side — Great plenty of Moose Tracks, but the calm weather, is much against approaching That Animal —
18th Wednesday — Moved 2 Miles to the River & then went up it 2 more & put up the Indian men that went to the Slave Lake House the 9th Inst. with meat returned, & brought a little Tobacco & a small quantity of Liquor — for the other Tent — My Tent mates had not an Inch sent them — The 2 Tents joined us, that the Man came from the 15th Inst. They are all in a wretched condition, not any thing to eat & their faces much frost bit — Gabble killed a Doe Moose — on account of our new visitors, some of whom slept in our Tent that they thronged it up so very much, that I was oblig'd the whole to lay in a manner double, & could not get any sleep — before morning I often wished our new comers at the Devil — & I am afraid that they will remain with us, & eat what we should require for ourselves — as none of them are any thing of even tolerable hunters
19th Thursday — Moved nearly direct within 3 ½ miles & put up — Thook killed a Doe Moose — Slave river bearing East distant 2 miles.
20th Friday — A little afternoon, arrived at our Tents Mr John Findlay a Canadian Clerk, one Canadian & 2 Jepowyans on their way to the Athapescow House with Letters from Mr Daniel to Roderic McKenzie.
21st Saturday — At Noon Mr Findlay & party left us — & about 2 hours after arrived a Canadian his Wife & 2 Children, they are to remain, with Dinna sleeny — in his Tent — This Canadian cannot speak any English — consequently can have but little conversation together but — what we can carry on in the Indian Tongue.
22nd Sunday — All the Women fetching home meat every Day — Killed here 3 Buffalos & one Moose — a variety of bad weather lately.

January 23rd Monday

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Where Paddy killed the Bull in the Summer, bearing N 2 miles - Gabble, Thook, & Dinna Sleeny moved the Former towards the Buffalo river or Ezzid da yal la dizza in search of the Rabbits head a Chepawyan Chief & I accompanied him, course SW. - the other 2 men & families, moved up along side of the Slave river - with the Canadian man 3 miles, & they killed a Buck-moose -

24th Tuesday - Thook, in the morning came to Gabbles Tent, and begged hard with tears in his Eyes that I would return again to his Tent & remain with him, as he had no ammunition of his own - I therefore consented & accompanied him back - very much pleased that I had listened to what he had said - This man I had been with all the Fall & winter to this time - & the reason I left him I had very often wished him to procure me either a drest moose skin or a Deers Skin Coat to make me a Toggy off as all the winter I have had nothing of the kind & have always been obliged to wrap myself up in a Blanket when ever we pitched – his often promising me the above, & never performing it, determined me to leave him & accompany Gabble (my last Winters Tent mate) who promised me faithfully that I should soon have good winters rigging - These were my reasons that I changed the short time Tent mates - & now Thook solemnly promises that I shall directly have stuff to make a Coat off - returned back with Thook, & they pitched 2 ½ miles up a long side of the river, a little within on the SWt. side - killed one Young Bull - Slept in Dinna Sleenys Tent. -

25th Wednesday - Moved ¾ mile & put up - Killed 1 Cow Buffalo – the 2 Tents that we left behind the 23 Inst. came up they had remained to dry meat for more convenience of carriage - 4 Tents of us now together Thook & myself slept in a hut of Pine branches - he now accomplished his long promise & I got from him a Deer Skin robe, with the Hair on to make me a Coat, which I did very soon, having very frequently been near perishing by the Cold when we pitched along, for want of such a useful piece of clothing.

January 26th Thursday - moved 2 miles and put up Killed 1 young Buffalo.
27th Friday - Thook & Cha haw in na (a copper mine Indian) & Family moved SW 4 miles & put up in a small Creek, that falls into the Buffalo River mentioned 23rd September last - 2 Beaver houses here in the Creek - Those Indians we left behind also moved - it is our Intent to hunt the Beaver that we have left the others.
28th Saturday - The 2 men at work at the Beaver houses, but did not kill one.
29th Sunday - The men on account of their poor success yesterday, got daunted & left off all thoughts of the Beaver & they moved back again after those we left on Friday - moved 2 pitching our own last one & 5 miles more to a Tent place the other Indians slept at the night we parted from them The men went ahead, & myself & the Women remained, together.
30th Monday - moved 2 mile pitching on the Indians Track that is just made by 4 N 4 ½ miles & arrived at the Indians that we left the 27th Inst - Several fine plains of Grass land & no woods, a fine place for the Buffalo - a Jepowyan came here from the Big Island - he slept 2 nights in coming from thence, he has left his Family there & some others, they are very near dead some of them thro' hungar - he is come to get victuals & to return tomorrow - we are to remain here until they arrive to join us;
31st Tuesday - 2 young men set of to the Big Island, with 2 good loads of meat to supply those poor starved people on their journey to us - While we were absent at the Beaver houses the 27th & 28th . The Indians had killed 2 good fatt Cow Buffalos - Thook killed a young Buffalo - We have information of 7 Tents of Chepowyans to the S West of us & 5 to the Eastward, but a short distance from here - Fine warm weather since the 25th Inst.
February 1st Wednesday - All the Women went for meat.
2nd Thursday - One Tent left us & moved to the Southward to join the 7 we had intelligence of the 31st Inst.
3rd Friday - The other 2 Tents moved after the one that pitched yesterday to join Ah gee nah, the great Chepowyan Chief who accompanied Mr. Alexndr McKenzie to the Hyperborean Sea in 1789 - arrived a young man from the Rabbits head, who is tenting on the West side, the Buffalo river, this

February Young man is to remain with the Paps - This man, Thook, & his Wife and my self moved back along an old Track in order to meet those who are hourly expected from the Big Island - We pitched no tent. -

4th Saturday - Moved in the same direction as yesterday 4 miles & put up – Then 2 men that went a few days since with provisions to meet those that are now starving, returned accompanied by 2 others & they bring the melancholy intelligence that a middle aged man & a boy about 12 years old had fallen victims to hunger before they arrived back with the meat - so soon as the above relation was made known every one set up a most dismal & disagreeable crying or rather howl, on account of the unfortunate death of their Country men – This continued all the day at frequent Intervals of 10 or 15 minutes each time - The young man who lately came to remain with us being out a hunting & did not arrive at our hut till 8 oClock at night, & when he heard the news, they all again began their usual chorus of howling & crying & beating themselves & tearing their hair - he appeared almost distracted, far surpassing all the rest in his horrid lamentations, he cut the Stockings from off his Legs which was new & threw several of his Clothes & his other necessary articles away which will render him pitiful until he can again be supplied - The Man I am with behaved with great fortitude & suppressed his agonating grief like a true philosopher, altho at the same time he was as impasively affected as any of those who made the loudest & frequent howls. They kept up this way nearly the whole night, that alarmed me not a little, not knowing but in their frantic fits of desperation they might have hurt me as I was one alone - I did not get a wink of sleep the whole night for watching their motions; by good chance the Moon was nearly full, & the sky quite clear, that I could see nearly as well about me as perfect day - The remainder of them will be here tomorrow.

5th Sunday - I never passed a more disagreeable night than this last, altho I lay quite still all night I did not sleep the least - on account of the very frequent howling crying they kept up all night. - as soon as day light appeared which was joyful to me, the young man began to cut every thing he had in pieces of clothing - keeping howling all the time about 10 AM the others came up & joined us & they all got a supply of Provisions, which they all stood in very much need off - Their withered, imaccated, skeleton like look

February was enough to move even the hardest heart. The deceased mans wife with 2 young children, & far advanced her pregnancy of the 3rd & her Brother with the mans mother I am remaining with & his son about 10 years old who had the misfortune to have all his toes frozen, when an infant in the cradle - that he has not a single toe remaining - he however walk pretty well, then with the 2 men accompany us & I suppose will remain with us the rest of the Winter - all the deceased mans property was destroyed & thrown away when they joined us -

6th Monday - Moved 4 miles & towards the Slave river & put up, before we started in the morning Thook supplied the young man with every necessary that he could conveniently spare - the young man having destroyed all his clothing yesterday - not to do the like & make themselves totally destitute is looked upon by their countrymen as having an unfeeling heart - & the man I am along with lay under those insinuations by the rest because he did not destroy every thing he had, he was by much the wisest of them all, had he have done like the rest. some of them must have absolutely perished by the cold, the want of clothing to protect them from the severity of the Season - which in these parts at this time is uncommonly severe - Thook on hunting & returned without success - also the young man on the like expedition but killed nothing - We are again at very short allowance, notwithstanding our late superfluities, occasioned in a great measure by supplying those half starved poor creatures who have lately joined us

7th Tuesday - This night dreamed in the Chepawyan Language - the first time and I appeared to have a more extensive command of words when asleep than when awake - being so long & not hearing any thing else spoken, but the Jepowyan - custom is second nature - Moved E 2 ½ miles to the edge of the Slave river & up along it SbE 1 & put up, Before we set off in the morning I was much surprised to see them cut a good fine deer skin nett (fishing) all to pieces, altho 2 or 3 of them had nothing to net Snow Shoes with and was now even so deep as the Snow is going without them. That they had cut to pieces the 4th Inst on enquiring the reason of their destroying the net they told me that at first they had intended to have kept it for Snow Shoes - but that ever since they could not sleep while any thing of the dead mans property was not destroyed, which was the very last article that had formerly belonged to him - Thook & his mother singing every night very doleful & plaintive & melancholy songs on account of the deceased - Thook at a Beaver house that some Indians had

February broke open this winter but again repaired - he got nothing - our allowance only one handful of Beat meat *p* day each person, without any fatt - which was all used the day after they joined us.

8th Wednesday - Fortune favours us - got five ½ & 2 large Beaver.

9th Thursday - Thook's snow shoes being broke, could not hunt, his Wife is netting a pair for him - he is our only man to depend upon for meat &c.

10th Friday - Finished the Snow shoes & we moved NbW 1 mile & put up upon an Island in the Slave river. Men on hunting, but killed nothing.

11th Saturday - Men on Hunting & had the good luck to kill 2 Buck. Moose This morning all our stock of provisions was shared out which was very soon done, being only one Beaver Tail amongst 4 men, 3 Women & 3 Children. At night late the Men returned with a load each on their backs, & thank God we made an excellent Supper, little thinking in the morning that we should have done so well.

12th Sunday - Fetched home the moose, & I accompanied them; we had a wash there where the animal was killed & I stuck a lump of Snow upon a stick before the fire, which was pretty large, a flame of wind blew the blaze right upon me & took of my beard as clean as if it had just been shaved altho' it was pretty long, being on 10 Days. This was the most expeditious shave I ever had, tho' somewhat disagreeable. Thook killed another buck moose. so that thank God we again begin to set famine at defiance

[“A close shave” is written in the margin]

13th Monday - Moved down the river NNE 2 1/2 miles & put up on the West side, the reach above WNW & the one we put up in NNE 3 ½ .

14th Tuesday - Fetched home all the meat.

15th Wednesday –

18th Saturday –

Taken about 1 mile from the bottom of the reach on SWt side. These days past employed busily splitting & drying meat to make it lighter to carry - moved across the river & within SEbE 4 miles, Thook intends to go to Tall Chu dezza after Beaver - as he has not yet killed one third of his Credit. he got from Mr Ross in the fall at the Athapescow lake - where we lay by I made a large sledge, for the deans

February. Mans wife - she was very kind to me & gave me a little provisions, several times that I rather stood in need off.
19th Sunday - moved ENE 6 miles along an old pitching Track. - supposed to be Aga nah - Wind Easterly strong breezes cloudy weather with a gentle thaw all day - very fine mild weather these three weeks past in general, the Climate & Season considered. Very bad hawling on account of the thaw.
20th Monday - moved 5 miles making a round Turn nearly to our last encampment after Buffalo Tracks, Distance straight 1 ½ miles SEbS.
21st Tuesday - Thook stayed out all night, which surprised us, as he never all winter had done the like before, without previously acquainting his Wife. Moved SbW 4 miles & put up.
22rd Wednesday –

The carrying place out of the Slave into the Eggid da zal la dezza bearing W true course, - moved SEbE 5 miles & put up - Thook returned having been after both Buffalo & Moose & had killed 1 fatt Cow & many Dale pretty good.
23rd Thursday - moved SbW 5 miles to where the Buffalo was killed yesterday & put up - These 3 last pitchings we have gone out of the proper direction to come to the Stony Ground where the Beaver frequent, which is about 12 miles off & shall go that way when the meat is dry'd &c.
24th Friday - Women fetched home the meat & I set up 7 Marten traps.
25th Saturday –

In the evening arrived 2 Jepowyan Men, they left their Tents yesterday - several of them are nearly starving – 2 of them is already dead thro' hunger. Have river near hand.
26th Sunday - The 2 men returned to their Tents with meat.
27th Monday - at dusk in the evening arrived 2 men One Woman & 1 boy, the rest not come up.
28th Tuesday - Moved together EbS 2 miles & put up.
29th Wednesday - Got 2 martens from my Trap - & I went for wood to make a Sledge for Thook's mother - as her Son has little time to do it being out hunting &c - & I having nothing to do, it is a recreation to me to be about such little jobs. Made a roast of a whole Buffalo head, hair horns &c – which was hung before the fire 2 days, & 2 nights, before, it was thoroly done.

March 1st Thursday Made a sledge for Thooks mother, & afterwards moved ENE 4 miles It is my constant custom all winter, whenever they pitched to remain in the old Tent place till such time as I thought the women had time to arrive where they pitched to & put up the Tent & have every thing done, that when I arrived I had nothing else to do but put my few things into the Tent - besides, going behind I always had a good Track to go thro'. Men on hunting but no luck - The Snow Birds made their first appearance an unerring harbinger of Spring -
2nd Friday Moved SSE 2 miles & put up - Got one Beaver - at night arrived - Ki an che a Canadian 3 Coppermine Indians & one Jepowyan, on their way to the Athapescow Lake House with Letters. They remained with us all night.
3rd Saturday - The people that arrived here the last night set off for the Athapescow Lake - with 2 sledges - I wrote a Letter to Messrs Philip Turnor & Ross – telling them of my situation & as these Indians say they will return back again to us, I requested a little Tobacco, Ammunition &c also some Book or other to read as the Days are now become pretty long & mild & I rather think long for want of something to read. Moved SEbE 5 miles & put up.
4th Sunday - The 2 young men in our Tent went away by themselves to the Slave river to kill Beaver. - Moved SE 4 ½ miles & put up. Thook killed a young Buffalo at the Stony Ground. I had the ill luck to again break the Bottle that contained my Quicksilver, but fortunately none of it was lost -
5th Monday - Gave Thook the last of my Ammunition - made a small vessel of Buffalo horn, to contain my Quicksilver for the Artificial Horizon – which answers extraordinarily well being much preferable to either Glass or earthenware as not so subject to break - moved 7 miles upwards along the Slave river within - The Indians have now again changed their mind, not intending to go to the Thay thule dezza after Beaver. The others came up 2 Men & 2 Women, one of each remain in our Tent & the other 2 in the other one -
6th Tuesday - The other Tent killed one Cow, plenty of Their Tracks all about but no tracks of Moose - A Gentle thaw since the 4th Inst both Day & Night the 2 men returned from the Slave river that went to kill Beaver the 4th Inst but have not killed one.
7th Wednesday - Nothing Particular

March 8th Thursday - moved 6 miles & put up. parallel with the Slave River within NE
9th Friday

Moved ESE 6 miles - Got one ¾ Beaver.
10th Saturday - All the men belonging to both Tents at work at Beaver Houses & got three ½ - two ¾ & 2 large Beaver - 7 in all - they also found 4 more Beavers houses pretty nigh - Evening Clear & calm - made the following Observations all being Double Meridian Altitudes.

12th Monday Yesterday got 2 large Beaver & this day one large one.
13th Tuesday - Very bad yesterday & the day before, having a sore throat & a violent pain in my head - pretty well now thank god except a sore throat, which I hope will soon get better. - Snow yesterday - moved NNE 2 miles & was necessetated to put up short of where we intended to go - on account of the deceased mans wife being delivered in the Track, when hawling a very heavy sledge. The other woman wished to erect the small Tent for that purpose, but she was too quick for them. - she had a boy - Got 2 large Beaver - warm weather.
14th Wednesday - Got tolerable well thank God - to be ailing alone with the Indians is a melancholy situation for any one that ever experienced it, being absent from all friends & Countrymen - arrived 2 Jepowyans from the Thay Thule degga - or Stony River - they slept 2 nights in coming here, several Jepowyans are at that river - moved NNE 6 miles to the edge of the Stony Ground about 8 miles from the Thay Thule dezza - bearing North – the woman that was delivered yesterday took her heavy sledge to drag as usual - the same as if nothing had happened to her - She sleeps in a small brush hut not having permission to come into the Tent along with the men - & other women – the 2 young men that went to Slave river to kill Beaver the 4th The het Inds set of for the Slave Lake House - (Muskrat & the honkey) - Got one large & one ¾ Beaver
15th Thursday - I went for wood for a sledge my other one being too narrow always upsetting when we pitch along. - Gentle breezes at E a gentle thaw Got one large one ¾ & one ½ Beaver.
16th Friday - Got one large & one ½ Beaver & 1 Porcupine - Finished my sledge making it - most of the men on hunting, no luck - Strong Gale at West & Cold - The 2 men that came here on Wednesday returned yesterday.

March In the evening arrived at our Tent of Coppermine river Indian, he says that there is good many of his countrymen, a good way down the Thay Shule dezza — this river empties itself into the Shale chee dezza — a long way down, also got 2 more ¾ Beaver.
17th Saturday nothing particular —
18th Sunday — Thook on hunting & killed a young Buck moose and an Old one — Strong Gale Westerly, & cold with Snow all yesterday & last night.
19th Monday —

Moved NbW 4 miles to where the Moose was killed — Got my Snow Shoes new netted, the heel & toe netting being entirely broke some time ago — Light Airs from the Westd. clear freezing weather — evening cloudy & warm.
20th Tuesday — Moved NbE 4 miles, got one ¾ & 2 large Beaver — at Sun set, we had the agreeable pleasure to see those return, from the Athapescow, who went with Letters the 3rd Inst. They brought me a Letter from Mssr. Ross & Turnor, also 2 fathoms of Brazil Tobacco — as I had none of that very necessary article that the Canadians gave me in January, some time ago. I also received a Bound Magazine — which will pass away several long hours — the remainder of the Spring or rather winter — as the cold is still severe.
21st Wednesday — One man went to the Thay Shule dezza, to inform those Indians there, that we shall shortly set off for the Athapescow.
22nd Thursday —

23rd Friday — The Man returned that went to the Thay Shule dezza the 21st Inst. Moved towards the Slave river EbS 5 — The Woman that was lately delivered still sleeps & remains in a small hut alone, not yet having permission to come into the Tents.
24th Saturday —

Thook went to the Indians at Thay Shule dezza — to consult about setting off for the Athapescow House. Moved SbW, towards the Slave river 2 ½ miles & put up.
25th Sunday — Moved SbE 2 miles & put up — Thook returned, he brought with him 16 Martin skins that his Countrymen had given him as he is still a good deal short of having furr's enough to pay our Credit. — Tha ha in na, a Coppermine river Indian, accompanied Thook

March he is to accompany us to the House - his Wife will be here tomorrow - This is the same person who paddled in company with me in the Summer, when we went down the Egged da zal la dezza or Buffalo river. - This man very well agrees with the Jepowyans, but the 2 nations has a secret jealousy for each other, notwithstanding they speak the same language - and might be called with great propriety one & the same people The Coppermine river Indians, inhabit to the NNE of the Jepowyans & are the next neighbours to the Esquimaux with whom they are frequently at war with - principally to acquire their stone kettles for cooking In - them & the Northern Indians has an invariable custom when at war never to take any prisoners, but indiscriminately kills all of every age & sex - contrary to the manners of the Southern Indians & most other nations who very often save the young women & several Children, whom the latter they adopt as their own, particularly should any of them have dyed, previous to their war expedition - and they use them as well as their own Children - the young women, they take as Wives the most handsome, who are well used. to the ugly ones are made Slaves off for doing all kinds of hard work such as cutting, firewood, fetching water &c &c -

26th Monday - A great quantity of snow fell in the night - Strong Gales at Nt cloudy, cold weather - Three men & 2 Women left us, they are going to join their Countrymen at the Thay Shule dezza - as we are upon the eve of setting off for our House - moved NEbE 4 miles & put up.

27th Tuesday - Moved SEbE4 miles - The Wife of Thi an cho, joined us, on her way to the Athapescow House, she will accompany us there - not any Tracks of Cattle to be seen these few pitchings.

28th Wednesday - Moved SbE 3 ½ miles & put up -

29th Thursday - From this place, the head of the rapids in Slave River & the Bottom of them makes an angle of 80° - moved SEbE 5 & put up. The men on hunting, & the Coppermine river Indian killed a very fatt Doe Moose, near where we moved to. - Thook & Debki did not return.

30th Friday –

Fetched the moose; the others not returned.

31st Saturday –

The 2 men that went on hunting on Thursday not yet arrived.

April 1st Sunday - Cha ha in na & a you na, taking birch rind for canoe building – to make after their return from the Athapescow Lake - The Birch trees here are but of a small size - only fit for small Indian Canoes - The 2 Men are not yet returned from hunting & various conjectures are formed of their long absence, - & the tears of sorrow & affection is upon every ones countenance; - a Gentle thaw every day since the 28th Inst - The 29th there was rain at night & the 30th rain in the morning - The snow in consequence has greatly diminished these 3 days past.
2nd Monday - At Sun Set the 2 men returned after an absence of 5 Days - the sight of whom cheered up every one. - They said that they had been following Buffalo tracks all the time; in order to kill some for the Women & Children to live upon while they returned from the Athapescow Lake; but had the luck to kill one only.
3rd Tuesday - Busily employed in arranging our sledges &c to set of for our house - and at 2 PM got all ready & set off - My Thook, Cha ha in na & his Wife & Ki an cho's wife with myself - all the others we left behind To collect Bark & wood ready for canoe building when these returns back to them - we had each a pretty heavy sledge - went WbS 8 miles & put up at Sun set - we left the Tents behind, making a hut of Pine branches to sleep in at night - we are making for the Slave River to have better hauling - Left the Stony Ground that we have been amongst since the 15th March. I call it stony Ground, because here & there there are a few rocks & in other places not a stone is to be seen.
4th Wednesday - at 7 AM got underway & went SSW. 10 miles & came to the Slave river - at 4 PM - having been lost & embarrassed amongst very thick places of small & wind fall wood sometime, we came to the river about 1 ½ mile below the upper carrying place, proceeded up the river & put up about ½ mile above the head of the rapids, amongst a deal of old Large Poplars - we made a good fire, & soon after we were all very much surprised to see numbers of muskettoes flying about, altho the snow was more than 10 Inches deep on the ground every where – on examination we found that betwixt the Bark of the Poplars & the tree of the old Dry wood, there was a large open space, which was full of muskettoes that have been in that situation all winter - in some places they was on large cakes of 2 Inches thick - the heat of the fire had mignats them

April so as to be able to fly about in the manner before mentioned - being thicketty & bad until we arrived at the river - at the head of the rapids we found 2 Canadian Canoes which had been set in last Fall - they had built a small log house to keep the Goods in - there was about 10 pieces remaining - and several Articles laying within in a very careless manner - There had been protected or guarded all winter by an Image set upon a painted red pole over the house - about the size of a small child - not an Indian would go up to the House to look at it until I did, being thoroughly pursuaded, that if they even attempted to take Any thing away, the Een cozzy as they called it would acquaint the Canadians of the offender - which beleefe I further confirmed the Indians in – all another numbers of Indians have frequently passed this place, but never one even ventured up near the place - altho' with no thought of stealing
5th Thursday - Early in the morning got underway & went up the Slave river 20 miles & put up upon the S West side - Cold weather.
6th Friday - Moved about 22 miles & put up.
7th Saturday - Got underway in the morning & put up about ⅓ of the way on Rock River, that falls out of the Athapescow Lake into the Slave river.
8th Sunday - Got underway & met with some more Indians who are going to the House - proceeded about 4 miles; when an Old Man, his Son & myself, proposed to go up a small branch on the left, a little way & then cut over land & fall into the Athapescow Lake, which was at least 12 miles nearer than the way we paddled in the Summer, & which all the other Indians are going – proceeded till noon, when the Old Mans son returned back to join the others, & the old man went in quest of him & gave orders to me to remain where I was until he returned - I waited some time & no sight of either, the old man or his Son, thinking that probably they would go the other way - I set forward by myself having a good Track to go thro' which I proceeded about 4 miles when I found several different ones, going different ways - a wrong one I unlucky took & proceeded along it till near night, & found the termination of it, when Indians had killed a moose & thro' this Track they had hauled it to the Tent. I now returned & at dusk I got to an old Tent place, where I made a fire & remained for the night - I had no victuals with me, but boiled in my Tin quart pot some Rock wood & had a little fat which I boiled with it & made a tolerable supper - About midnight as I supposed I was

April terribly alarmed out of my sleep - by an uncommon loud noise – which appeared not far off - I immediately rose & made on a large fire, & put my gun in order, ready for an attack which I expected every moment – I thought it to have been Bears - that was going to fall upon me – after the fire began to blaze much I was agreeably surprised to hear the noise recede farther from me, upon both sides of me - till at last, when near morning it totally ceased - I then lay down, but durst not venture to sleep, the suprise & consternation I had lately been in prevented sleep from falling upon me. - afterwards I told the Story to the Indians, describing the kind of noise, & they told me that it proceeded from 2 moose deer calling to one another. - Being lost - & a stranger to the party also but a young hand in this Country, such was the cause of my great terror & consternation.
9th Monday - At Sun rise I set off determined to go, the way that the other Indians had - & I accordingly went back to where I left them & followed their Track & arrived at in the Athapescow Lake at 3 PM - Last night a little before I put up I fell into the old mans track who had lately passed, but its being near dark prevented me then following it - at the entrance of the Lake found 14 Tents of Jepowyans which they had just pitched, where I remained all night; had I not found them it was my determination to have gone forward to the Goon Island & slept there - Got an excellent Supper, what I wanted last night - all these Indians are going to the House to Trade with their Winter's hunt - Gave Ageena the English Chief a little Tobacco -
10th Tuesday - In the morning 3 young Men accompanied me to our House where we arrived about 2 PM - being absent from all European intercourse & alone with the Jepowyans ever since the 4th September last – having acquired a sufficiency of their Language to transact any business with them – upon the whole this has been rather an agreeable winter than otherwise – the principal difficulty we laboured under was the want of a Kettle & being at some few times reduced to very short allowance in provisions - which last is even the case with any person that may accompany Indians - Cold near & shift at NNE fresh Gale in crossing this wide lake free from any shelter, I got one of my Ears severely froze - That it was not well for weeks afterwards - here ends my Remarks with the Jepowyans My Tent mates arrived at our House yesterday which alarmed Mr R & me asking The
[Journal picks up in May when they leave Athabasca House]

May 9th Wednesday - at 10am Embarked for Cumberland House in 2 Canoes as before Mr Turnor having surveyed those places he intended: Sailed & paddled until 8pm & put up at the opening into the Jack Lake - Fresh breezes at SEbE cloudy cold weather, small scattered Ice along the Shore - & the Water in the river very low for the Season - The River Ice broke up the 5th Instant being rather earlier than usual - Our People at the Athapescow House Lived intirely upon Fish all winter, Tikameg & Trout in General – the latter is caught upon set hooks under the Ice - & got by Angling after the commencement of March until the Ice gives way in the Lake, which is generally June about the middle & sometimes latter, owing to the coldness of the Season, the great body of water & being very deep - We hauled our Canoes over the Ice from our House & every thing else to the entrance of the river, where we remained 2 or 3 days before the river was sufficiently clear of Ice for a safe navigation - We Traded every article of Goods with the Jepowyans that we had remaining & made 13 smallish Packs amounting to about 700 lbs - We have for our whole stock of Dry provisions only about 50 lbs of mould beat meat & 10 lbs of Salt to put us to Cumberland House - so that we must depend much upon our nets for our future support as it will be nearly 6 Weeks before we arrive there - particularly as Fishing will detain us very much upon the way - Mr Ross imprudently traded all his Ammunition with the Indians for furs - so that we was under the necessity of purchasing some from the Canadian Master Mr Roderick McKenzie who made Mr Ross pay well for his imprudence in disposing of all his several useful stores & nets we put into the Care of the said Canadian Master, to take care of against our return in the Fall to establish Trading Settlements whom the Indians had all previously been made acquainted with Mr Ross Intention - as they were all very much pleased & wished the Hudsons Bay Servants to reside in these parts as the Canadians makes no presents & their Goods they sell at such very enormous prices taking 1 beaver Skin for 5 Ball - or 1 Flint fish - & 2 large ones for a Common mans Knife & every different article in proportion. Caught of Fish of sorts at the Athapescow House during our stay there upwards of 4000. so that they had plenty to eat.

May 10th Thursday - at 4 ½ AM got underway - sailed & paddled until 6 ¾ PM and arrived at Peter Pond's Old House, where we put up - The House has been abandoned there several years, but on our wintering at the Athapescow the Canadians reestablished it to prevent the few Southern Indians who reside in these parts from coming to the Lake, as in that case they might have given us some of either meat or skins - Peter Pond I believe wintered here twice, & not at the Lake - at present a Mr Levison Master who liberally supplied us with the meat of 2 old Beaver & 4 Geese - This man in the year 1799 with 4 others Canadians unfortunately was massacred in McKenzie's river, being every person in the Canoe except one Indian who miraculously escaped, & got safe back to their Settlement in that river - it was the Day get thays or the Quarrellers that committed that atrocious act; when he was presenting & distributing small articles of Goods as presents of them - Their journey was to survey that river & to fix upon an eligible place, to establish a trading Settlement at. - Strong Gale at NbE cloudy cold weather, with a little Snow in the morning - 2 Tents of Southern Indians upon the Plantation who informed us that a few more of their Country men were building Canoes a few miles up the river above the House, & that they had a tolerable stock of meat - They also gave Mr Ross directions where to look for them as they was within a little way from the river - The courses & distances having been taken before betwixt the confluence of the Red willow river & the one that washes the western foot of the Methy Carrying place all the way to the Athapescow Lake, which will be found from page 14 to page 18 of this volume, it is therefore needless to repeat them -

11th Friday - at 8 ⅓ AM got underway, paddled about 7 miles & put ashore on the S West side the river where about we expected to find the Southern Indians building Canoes, but after searching for them 4 ½ hours we left not being fortunate enough to find any of them. we then got underway again & paddled till 7 ¼ PM & put up upon the East side opposite a large white steep bank - Fresh breezes at ENE, cloudy cold weather a very hard frost in the night

12th Saturday - at 4 ½ AM got underway, paddled & sailed until 8 ½ PM & put up - Heavy Gale at NW, cloudy & clear alternately, very cold weather - a sharp frost in the night - necessitated to put ashore twice to pitch our Canoes, they, being very leaky on account of the cold weather - Distance about 24 miles

May 13th Sunday - at 4 ¾ am got underway, sailed all day & put up at 7 ¼ am – Fresh Gales Northerly, pretty clear, very sharp freezing weather all day - Not a leaf to be seen, went 32 miles - a strong current in the river we have to advance against - This morning the Canoes lay in all night as they usually have done on account of the Cold to prevent its cracking the Pitch & render them leaky - we found them solidly frozen fast in the river & walked quite round them up on the Ice, & we had some trouble in cutting them out & disengaging them from it. - as they are a very brittle Craft & not fit to endure blows:

14th Monday - at 6 am got underway, paddled & put up at 7 ½ am about 5 miles below an old Canadian House opposite to a small river on the SWt side, - Light breezes Southerly, till 3 pm, then cloudy - sharp frosts still in the night - more like the month of April than May. cold morning & the middle of the day rather warm. Distance 21 miles. Water rising on the river.

15th Tuesday - at 4 ¾ am got underway - paddled until 2 pm, then afterwards sailed & proceeded until 8 pm & put up about 4 miles below the Forks of the large Branch of the Athapescow river - Water last night rose in the river 7 Inch, perpendicular, but in the day it fell off a little - Light breezes & variable the forepart pretty clear, afternoon fresh Gales at NW.

16th Wednesday - at 5 am got underway & arrived at the Old Canadian House at 7 am opposite the great fork of the Athapescow river - the current this morning much stronger than in any part of the river below remained here 2 hours to pitch & water the other Canoe & again Embarked at 9 & paddled till 8 pm & put up at the mouth of that river that runs by the Methy Carrying place – several small rapids betwixt the forks & here, that we did not perceive on our passage down here last summer, the water then being high - Light breezes North & clear hot weather, morning frosty as usual.

17th Thursday - We have no pilot to conduct us this way by the Methy Carrying place to the Isle a la Crosse, but some rude sketches & instructions from the Canadian Master - we now proceed up that river, went as under

ENE ¼ a strong rapid - NE ½ ENE ⅛ strong current & 2 small willow Islands - ENE ⅙ a small pine Island - EbN & ESE ⅓ along the side of a small Island EbN ½ , NE & NWbN ½ - NE ½ - ENE ¼ - SSE ⅓ - NNE ⅓ - NE ⅓ – SbSE ⅙ - NEbN ⅓ - SbSE ⅓ - E ⅙ - NNE ½ a small pine Island – SSE ⅓ - ENE ⅓ - NWbN ⅓ –

May 17th NbNW ⅓ – SbESE ⅓ - EbN & NNW ½ - NNE ⅓ - SEbE ½ - NEbN ⅛ a fine level piece of grass land on the South side, low – NNE ⅙ - WbN ½ - NW to NbW ½ –EbS ½ – NW 1 a pine Island and a small rapidy current – NebE ⅓ a small Island – N ½ a small creek upon the North side - NbE to NE ½ - NEbE ½ NNE ¼ a pretty stout Island, a deal of Birch & a little pine upon it – NNE ½ a small creek on the South side – NNE ½ and put up at 7 ½ AM - Steep high banks of upwards of 600 feet perpendicular that makes an angle from the river of about 20° - with the horizon - low near the waters edge, willows, with pine & a little small Asp wood - river from 70 to 100 yards wide, pretty easy current the distance we have come, & very crooked in places, making a sweep round a projecting point & coming within 40 yards of the same place again - Fresh breezes & variable Easterly, clear warm weather.
18th Friday - at 4 ¾ AM got underway, went NE ½ – NE ½ - NbW ½ - NbE ¼ a small pine Island – ENE ¼ - NbE 1/3 a pine Island – NbE 1/3 – NbE 1/3 – ENE 1/3 – NbE 1/3 one pine Island NNE 2/3 NE 1/3 – NbE 1/3 – NbW 1/3 – NbW ½ - NbE ½ a small Island & burnt woods upon both sides of the river - more wood than usually particularly upon the North banks - but little burnt woods on the N side but still continues upon the opposite – ENE 1/3 – SW ¼ - SNE ½ - ENE 1 three small Islands near each other – SebE ½ a small Island – EbN 1/3 two pine Islands – ESE ½ very strong current – EbS 1/3 – NNE 1/3 a rapidy current. E 1/6 – NbE 1/3 – ENE 1/6 - SbE 1/3 – SSE & ESE ½ – EbN 2/3 – ESE 2/3 a pine Island – ENE ½ - EbS 1/3 – SSE 1/3 - a pine Island – EbS 1 ½ a pretty large pine Island, & Mineral Waters on the North side opposite the Island - which spring up in 4 or 5 different places all in the distance of 50 yards, of each other & not more than 5 yards from the very waters edge of the river - the Spring has a very disagreeable smell & when the wind is in the proper direction they may be smell 5 or 6 miles off similar to a rotten Egg - the water is remarkable clear & has a very salt taste combined with nitre & sulphur, about 1 Quart of it drank acts as a fine gentle cathartic - where it flows over the small stones before it intermingles with the river, a very white & slippery sediment adheres to the stones - it is very cold & the sediment is like soap on the hand for washing - where it springing up is upon the extremity of a low projecting point, about 1/3 mile from the foot of the high banks & appears to have at some distant period to have, slid down to its present

May - place, the uppermost spring forms a kind of small Creek of standing water & there the white sediment is 2 or 3 Inches thick, - very little herbage is observed to grow near them, & what does has a very arid & sterile appearance, even the small Trees that are near them are stunted in their Growth - was I on the least acquainted with Chemistry I should have made several experiments on its water, to ascertain its component parts - but unluckily, have no knowledge of that science. - ENE ⅔ - EbN ⅔ a small Creek on the South side, the banks of the river more thinly covered with wood than Lower down - & the banks rather increase in height, several fine bare grass patches upon them particularly upon the N Side - which are rather more elevated than the banks on the S side & more abrupt to ascend - which is very steep in some places. E 1 ½ about 400 yards wide - ENE ⅓ - E ½ - ENE ⅓ - ESE ⅓ a pine Island lately burnt, & several small willow Islands ENE ⅙ as small rapids (& a loft pine - a good way below on the S side -) NbNW ½ a pretty long rapid led on South side 100 yards - ENE ¾ a heavy rapid called the Cascade, where we carried on the North side 300 yards good carrying – the rapids below the Portage dangerous to run down, when the water is low, so very shole, at those times the Canadians carry all on both ascending & descending this river - we led ¼ mile on N side below the Portage, got all carried over & put up at 9 ½ PM - Fresh breezes at NE. clear weather.

19th Saturday - At 5 ¼ AM got underway, went ESE ⅙ strong current, then led E ⅛ on the N side 40 yards, river now becomes wider, than below - NbE ½ - ENE ⅓ river from 4 to 500 yards wide, with 3 small willow Islands. SE ⅓ led - NE ¼ led - EbN ¼ led on N side a rocky Island with pines upon it - ESE ⅙ not strong current - several small rocky Islands in the middle of the river - carried back 270 yards on N side over a point, but the proper portage is about 800 yards, but when the river is shole, the rapids below that we have led up are impassible for loaded Canoes. They then carry 2100 yards more within across the whole point - This is called by the Canadians Portage de Bon - in going down this portage is generally shot, when the water is good on the South side of all the Islands - a steep hill the short way of the carrying place, on W. end - about 10 yards over a steep rock. ENE 1/4 led very strong - NNW ⅛ led - NbE ¼ led - NbE ¼ & led 120 yards all upon the North side, then NbE ½ , low banks & willows at the waters edge on both sides the river - ENE ½ a very strong rapid, led it all on the South side - ENE ½ easy current, now not more than 40 yards wide here

May 19th SEb ½ - E ½ -river about 300 yards wide - a few small willow Islands EbN ¼

then SEbS ⅓ – E ⅔ – NbNE ½ - NE ½ - two pine Islands, one of which is pretty large - NNE ⅔ EbW ⅔ - led the Canoes 100 yards on the South side, then crossed over to the North side the river two very steep high perpendicular rocks in the middle of the river, led ESE ¼ & E ⅛ then cross't to the South side & carried 230 yards, rocky but pretty good, this is called the pine Carrying place* - & is 1270 yards long the long way of it. when the water is shoal - they generally shoot down the Canoes with half Cargo & carry the remainder - upon this Portage is several very grotesque rocks quite detached like old Castles with their tops off excavated in many places to some depth - a few scrubby pine & fir on them - & it appears that formerly the course of the river was where the Portage now is & that the waters had formed these detached I may say rocky Islands in the same manner as those 2 that are now in the middle of the present channel of the river - The river now runs between high steep perpendicular rocks about 20 or 30 yards apart, the fall is composed of 4 or 5 brinks but the lower end is the sholest. - then we went E ⅓ & led 20 yards on the North side a pine Island, small - & put up at 7 ¼ PM - Fresh breezes at SW Clear weather - **20th Sunday** - At 4 AM got underway - went SE ½ -ESE 1/3, the mouth of a small branch that joins a little higher up at the Portage - which is full of strong rapids - EbS ¼ two small willow Islands – E ⅓ – NbNE ½ - NE ¼ & carried 450 yards on the N side, into the before mentioned small branch Carrying place very rocky & rather steep at the West end. This is the last Carrying place we have until we arrive at the Long Methy one - a remarkable steep heavy fall here, which falls perpendicular in 4 places, & towards the lower end contracted very much by rock fallen into the river being distributed from the standing ones, by the frosts - it there boils & forms & rushes thro' with a surprising velocity until the Channel opens, where it reassumes its former placidity & soles smoothly on - N ⅛ led 20 yards in the small Branch, & now again fall into the main Channel just at the upper brink of the fall - it requires caution to keep close to the willows on N side to avoid being precipitated down the fall – NNE ⅓ led 30 yards on South side a high perpendicular small

May - rocky Island - when the water is high in the river, keep close along the N side ENE ½ - ESE ¼ - ENE ¼ small firs & the hills on both sides more thinly covered with woods than below - a kind of swamp on S side - the river, from the hills as farther than lower down - they are about ½ mile apart, & the river running in a Serpentine course between them thro a low valley, washing the foot of one side of the hills & then the other - & the obtruding points, small lakes & swamps upon them – willowy & low at the river edge - N ⅛ - NW ⅙ - WbN ⅙ - ESE & SSE ½ - ENE ½ - EbS ⅓ - ENE ⅓ a small creek on the North side - NbNW 1 scrubby woods ESE 1, across the valley on the S side –

then went NE ¼ - NW ¼ & NE ¼ a small creek on the North side, & the hills here pretty bare of woods – where generally a number of Buffalo resort - but we saw none - SE ½ - ENE ¼ - ENE & NW ½ - W ¼ - NW ¼ to NE ½ - N to SE ½ - NNE & ENE ⅓ - NEbE & SSE ½ - E & NEbN ½ - NbE ½ a small creek on the North side - N to E ½ - SEbE ¾ - NEbE ¾ - put Robert Garrick to walk along shore on the South side to fall in with the Track upon the Methy Carrying place, as it is by account very intricate to find, by any person who have never seen it by reason of having 2 crooked small Swamps to paddle across - after they leave the river - several of these are upon each side of the river, - we proceeded onwards up the river as usual - a deal of small Birch on the North side - went N ½ NNE 1 two small willow Islands, river nearly 400 yards wide here, below about the upper portage, several sand banks & the river there has in general a sandy bottom. N ¾ a lopped pine on North side, and old French small house - but none remaining in it - it was built for the purpose of keeping provisions In to meet the Canoes at the Methy Carrying place or their return from the Grand Portage - the Provisions were brought down peace river in July or the Beginning of August & then sent directly to this place, for the above purpose, where they remained until the arrival of the Canoes - Then entered a kind of narrow Grass swamp as in the margin on the South side, went in it NNE ⅙ - ENE ⅙ - now widens to 60 or 80 yards - ESE ¼ - ENE ½ - E to SW ½ & came to the western end of the Methy Portage, the opening out of the swamp into the river about 25 yards wide, low, grassy & wet. the lopped pine at Old House bears from the Landing place W & from the top of the Bank W NW ¾ per Compass - we went ahead of Robert Garrick & paddled past the entrance of the swamp up the river - N ¼ - NW ¼ - SEbE ¼ - NNE & NWbN ½ NNW ¼ - NE ½ - ENE to S 7/8 - ESE ½ , heard Robert Garrick firing guns behind

May 20th behind us we returned back down the river & landed at the Carrying place at 9 ½ AM - strong breezes & variable, clear weather, a large fire, on the North side of the river about 4 miles from it, the Grass or Woods being on fire -

21st Monday - Got all our small things tyed up in good weighty, convenient parcels, for the more conveniency of Carrying, & at 4 AM, we began to carry boat at the first spell, or before we ferry down our load, 270 yds low fine grass meadow land - 150 small willows - 30 very steep - 110 scrub oaks & rather open - 100 rather more open or free from woods - 350 thicketty of small pine Birch &c in which are 2 short steep hills in all 35 yards - easy ascent 35 - rather steep 70 - very steep 25 - rather steep 20 - very steep 25 nearly level 50 - very steep 20 - rather steep 20 - steep 50 - end of 1st Spell - Second Spell - rather down hill 30 - steep 25 - nearly level 15 - very steep 35 nearly level 70 - rather steep 20 - very steep 40 - steep down hill 20 - steep 60 & came to the top of the Bank, which is very fatiguing even carrying nothing - went above the Bank 700 yds, level, good, small Birches - a fine little spring of water at the Top of the Bank on the right, in a little low valley. - which is excellently situated, to get water at when on the Top of the Bank - I measured the perpendicular height of the bank above the level of the river & found it to be 712 feet. Measured with the Sextant & a base of 120 yards long - with 2 different altitudes From the Top of the Bank a very fine view of the adjacent country may be seen, particularly down the river, that runs in a serpentine Course between the Hills alternately sweeping the different Hills at their bases. the view below, is of great extent until the Country is lost in the blue expanse - The river that runs by the Carrying place that we have lately come up continues about 90 or 100 miles onwards, & then divides itself into 5 branches, of small size & soon after it loses itself in Swamps & - very hazy & frequent Carrying places & rapids above - There is away out of the Egg Lake near Isle a la Crosse, for Canoes, by making 4 short Portages, when they arrive in this river but the Fall are so very bad & numerous that it is not practicable to proceed that way - with safety - it is nearly all a succession of lakes betwixt this River & Egg Lake but this way altho a portage of upwards of 12 miles, where every thing must be carried, is preferable to the others altho the Portages there are not one

May Third of the length - Third Spell 1170 yds small pine asp &c remained here till evening - & then brought up the Canoes, which is by far the worst & hardest job of all - we tryed at first to carry them with the mouth down wards upon the shoulders of 4 men, but we found it particularly inconvenient on account of the narrowness & unevenness of the Track - we then carried them the old usual way with the mouth upwards, resting upon the shoulders of 2 men, one at each end - which at short distances were relieved by 2 others.

Both these observations taken on the West end of the Portage, at the landing place - the first by Mr Turnor & the 2nd by myself. On the passage it being rather inconvenient & sometimes rather delayed us, that I seldom observed for Lat. but got it directly from him: - Fresh Gales at SW. Clear & hot - muskettoes troublesome, the first appearance this year of our old Enemies in such numbers.

22nd Tuesday - At 2 ½ AM began to carry, it is our intention, during all the time we are upon this Portage to rise early & carry till about 8 or 9 oClock & then rest ourselves untill evening & carry again in the cool of the Day - North at 1st Spell - 1410 yards good, small pine, fir &c - 2nd Spell, 570, deep & swampy, exceeding bad in wet seasons, but now pretty dry & tolerable - a deep moss with small pines - 3800 yds dry hard & good and came to a small lake that we put every thing into the Canoe & paddle across & then begin to carry again - pretty sizeable firs at the edge of the Lake - went as under across the lake –

A stony shore all on NW side & the 2nd & SE side, generally sandy, particularly the SW corner, is inter sand - about 200 yards between these 2 lakes - but when the water is high the distance is not more than 10 yards in a narrow rise, & pretty high - with some remarkable old Trees upon it. – along the SW corner, a fine row of young firs springing up near the edge of the water, about 1 foot high - water very clear in the Lake & some small Jack Fish in it Carried on the SE side the Lake 790 yds dry & good. First stopt at 8 ½ AM - Mr Turnor went across the carrying place to examine its length & at 3 ½ PM he returned back having been across; & had an observation

May he left his Sextant & box there - he says that there are more than 8 miles yet to carry –

Taken at the SE end of the Portage. In the evening we carried one spell 1030 yds mostly burnt woods & sizable firrs - Fresh breezes at NE, rather cloudy fine weather.

23rd Wednesday - at 2 am began to carry went at the 1st Spell - 790 yds burnt woods & sandy - 60 a deep swamp, now pretty good owing to the dryness of the season 800 dry, good - 2nd Spell 860 burnt pines good – 470 rather stony, good all small burnt woods 3rd Spell 300 Dry, soft good, 600 rather swampy, with small stones very hurtful to the feet in carrying over them - Stopped at 8 am and necessitated to go 2 ¼ miles to search for water, in the evening carried one Spell 380 stoney. burnt scrub pines 140 - 100 rather swampy good, burnt scrub pine - 400 yards good, burnt pines. Fresh breezes & cloudy.

24th Thursday - at 2 am began to carry, went at the, 1st Spell, 1115 good, but rather stoney - 2nd Spell 1320, very stony in several places, about the size of ones fist - a variety of scrubby woods burnt – 3rd Spell 270 rather stony - 40 yards a deep grass swamp. 1100 Good, first part burnt scrubs – latter part not burnt, stopped at 6 ½ am - at 8 am began again to carry burnt 2 Spells - the 1st 760 - in which are 3 small hills of easy ascents interspersed with 2 or 3 small vallies sandy - 2nd Spell 970 Good, burnt pine. Fir &c - a pretty large low place runs parallel with the Track on the SWt side about 60 or 80 yards from it. seldom any water in it put up at 7 ¾ pm. Fresh breezes at SSE, clouds at intervals, the last night muskettoes troublesome.

25th Friday - at 2 ½ am began to carry & got all to the Creek at but too narrow & incumbered with wood to admit even a small Indian canoe from proceeding down it - Went at 1st Spell 1530 & came to the Creek - 20 yds down the bank into the creek of easy decent - 55 along the bottom or valley – 15 out of the Creek which is pretty steep, & carried 30 yards beyond the Creek - 2nd Spell 770 all burnt pine & fir pretty open – 3rd Spell - 730 & came to the Creek again - & the end of the Portage, here we put the Canoes into the Creek & proceed down to the Methy Lake - creek very narrow scarce sufficiently wide to admit a canoe turning in it - very crooked. & all willows - Good walking & indeed the whole Portage is in general pretty good, only so very long - a very level surface, the whole way except the bank

May 25th on the NW side of it. Course over the portage SEbE ¼ & turns (very) the brota from this end to the little lake is 8 miles & 1365 yard & beyond the lake to the Nthward 3 miles & 705 yards, so that the whole portage is 12 miles & 310 yds

Wind variable, heavy gales intermixt with calms, Thunder & rain in the afternoon – Mr Turnor repairing fishing nets to set in the Lake as all or Provisions is now done - & all the rest employed pitching the canoes – the Methy Lake appears to have a great quantity of Ice in it yet. Shott 5 Ducks.

26th Saturday – After pitching & watering the Canoes we embarked at 10 ¼ am & went down the creek very crooked, narrow, short turning 2 ⅓ mile making SbE 1 mile & came to the methy Lake & went as under –

necesscated to put ashore at 2 pm & remain, until the Ice disperses – as a solid field of Ice entails quite across the Lake here & has not moved this season a variety of weather with Thunder & rain, squally at times, intermixt with Calm set 2 nets & caught 87 succers & 8 Pike – indeed if we had attended the nets till night I verily believe we might have caught 7 or 800 numbers of the former sort as them we caught was in the space of half an hour & less – we could not scarcely take them out of the nets as fast as they came into it but not a single Tickamy – Got 1 swan.

27th Sunday In the night the wind veerd to the East quarter & drove the narrow part of the lake quite full of Ice, so that we could neither embark or overhaul our nets & the Ice drove quite over them – Wind variable or gusty, squalls intermixed with Calms, with showers of rain – Thick smoaky breeze all Day, occasioned by within the Woods or Grass being on Fire to the Eastward of us.

May 28th Monday – Rain nearly all night, about midnight the wind breezed to the NNE & blew a strong Gale which continued all day, cold cloudy freezing weather – the Ice cleared from where we set our nets, but one carried away boily & the other only 19 succers & 1 Jack in it – the Tent is fearful of the Ice & always keeps in the open water if there is any, & near the bottom out of its way – The Wind blew so hard that we could not proceed.

29th Tuesday At 4 AM got underway in the lake as below.

The Methy Carrying place is the height of land, the water beyond it falling in to the hyperborean sea, beyond McKenzies river & those waters that run this way to the NE way fall into Hudsons Bay & our Churchill river. Went down the Methy river E ¼ - EbS ¼ the entrance into the river is in a manner hidden with Pasp rushes growing in the water. Particularly in the summer after they have shot up – a little below the channel runs about 300 yard from the lakes about 40 or 50 yards wide, good current & deep with a sandy bottom & Thousands of succers gliding about in all directions as the canoe passes over them. – S & SWbS ⅓ and got the following observation

Then went SSE ⅙ – NE & SE ⅛ – NW ⅓ in 4 reaches – ESE ½ - several small branches & small swamps here about NEbE ¾ - E&SE ¼ - N ¼ - NW ¼, about 40 yards wide – NbW ¼ - E & NNE ¼ - SEbE & N ¼ - ESE ½ about 100 yards wide & a small willow Island – Thickety eiba wood here about all above near the lake, meer sowls – NebE ⅓ woods nearly meet on both sides of the river & a jam contracts to 25 yds wide, the upper end of a Carrying place when the water is shole of about ¾ mile long – went between ENE & SE ½ making SEbE ¾ in what are 18 shole rapids particularly the uppermost & comment ones. Then ESE ⅙ , about 60 or 70 yards wide. Easy current low swampy sides

May S & SWbS ⅓ - SEbE & SE ¼ - SEbS ¾ - N to SW ¾ 40 yards wide – SSE - W & WSW ½ - ESE to SW ½ - burnt woods on the SWest side - EbN to SW ¼ 20 Yards wide - SE & SW ¼ - SSE ½ - E to WSW ¾ making SSE ¼ - SSE ⅓ - WbN ¼ – a steep mud bank on SWest side - ENE to W ½ making SEbS ½ - NE to S ¼ the wood edge ¾ mile asunder, scrub pine Juniper &c. - NE to SWbW 2 ½ making S ½ E 1 - WSW ¼ - SE & WbS ¼ - ENE to NW 4 ½ making SEbS 2 – SEbS ⅓ - NEbE to WbS 1 making SSE ⅓ - ENE ½ - very short crooked turnings 2 miles making SEbS ½ & put up at 8 PM - The rapids that we passed this day are all down the Canoes all the way - Got 1 Swan & 1 Goose - Strong breezes at NNE. flying Clouds very cold weather - a hard frost in the night.

30th Wednesday - at 4 ½ AM got underway - went down the Methy river as before N to NW 1 ½ making S ½ - ESE ⅓ - SE to S 1 ½ making SSE 1 a small hill a little within on the SWt side, wood about ⅓ mile asunder - WbN ¼ - ESE to SSE 1 - SW ¾ - NNE & ESE ½ - NNE to S ¾ - N ¼ - E ⅙ a small kind of Creek on Et side, that to pass this it will save 10 minutes by the river it is scarcely the length of a Canoe & some few willows in it cut by the Beaver - that the point is really an Island. SWbS ¼ SW ⅓ - NbE to WbN 8 making SE ½ S 2 ¼ & come to a number of rapids again about 42 - at the end of the last course a Rapid - N ⅙ 1 rapid - E ⅙ 1 rapid - SSW & SE ¼ 1 rapid - near EbN ¾ in which are 9 rapids - EbS ¼ 2 rapids - EbN 1/10 3 very short rapids - SE ⅙ small rapid - EbN ⅙ 1 strong & 1 small rapid - E ⅙ 1 strong rapid - ESE ⅙ 1 strong rapid - EbS ⅓ in which are 4 rapids NEbS ⅙ 3 rapids - SE ⅙ 1 strong rapid - SE ⅙ - EbS ⅙ 2 rapids one Small & the other strong - N ⅙ 1 rapid - EbN ⅙ 2 strong rapids - SE 1/10 1 rapid - E ⅙ - SE ⅙ - SW 1/10 - SE 1/10 1 rapid - S 1/10 - SE 1/10 1 rapid - SE ⅙ 1 rapid - SEbE ¼ 2 rapids long, the lower one called the Barrier, being the worst for shoalness of them all. & being the last of this Cluster of rapids - Remark - 3 men p[er] Canoe, & light 22' going down the Creek from the Methy Carrying place to the Methy Lake - 4 hours paddle across the Lake - ¾ of an hour from the Lake to the upper rapids - 20' to go down them easily - 4 ½ hours betwixt the upper & lower rapids, the bottom of the former & top of the latter - 1 ¼ in going carefully down these 42 rapids - 16 minutes from the Bottom of these 42 rapids to the Branch of the new Track - 9 Hours good paddle from the Methy to the Buffalo Lake - 1 ½ hour betwixt the Branch & the Buffalo Lake - all this is going before the current & good water upon the rapids - The 5th rapid from the upper end of the 42 together

May is large, the 12th to. - 24th a large high round stone in the middle of the river - 25th a pine tree fallen into the river on N side - 28th large - 31st Do – 32nd steep - 34th steep - 37th steep - in Dry seasons the Canadians are obliged to carry upon the South side the greater part of their Carp, there a very rest place with much wind fall wood, particularly the upper ⅔ of the Portage - the lower ⅓ is pretty dry & a tolerable good track, but above is horrid - & the other side of the river is still more thicketty with wind fall wood - we then went SSE ¼ - S to W ¾ - SW ¼ & at 4 ½ AM arrived at the entrance of the new Track we went last Summer's by way of the Swan Lake, where my courses & distances th. commence – went down the river towards the Buffalo Lake ENE ¼ - EbS ¼ - S ¼ a rapid - EbN ½ 2 rapids - SW ¼ a long strong rapid - EbS ¼ - SEbE ¼ 1 rapid - EbN ¼ - SW ½ 2 rapids - SbE ⅓ - SWbS ¼ a rapid & latitude here p[er] last June 56°.10'.35" - SE ⅓ - SEbS ¼ a rapid - EbS ¾ - near N ⅓ a small grass Id on the North side - NbE ½ . River from 60 to 80 yards wide, a little below the Branch only about 20 yds - NbE ¼ - NE ¾ - ENE ½ - E 1/2 - ESE ½ - ENE ¼ - ESE ½ - SbE ½ - SbE ⅓ - EbN ¼ - ESE ⅓ NE ⅓ & came to the mouth of the river & the entrance into the Buffalo Lake and put up at 10 ¼ AM - The Lake had not moved & the Ice upon it was an entire solid body, not having broke in any part. Quite white like winter & the Foxes crossing over it - only a little water close along the shore - we must remain here until the Ice opens & disperses – luckily for us this is an excellent fishing place, for Jack Fish - The rapids in this river remarkably shole, owing to the little Snow in the Winter & no rain of consequence falling since - pretty easy current except at the rapids – the stones are pretty smooth & does not injure the Canoes much when they happen to touch them - low grassy, willowy wet banks all above the Bank to the Methy Lake - below the Branch pretty good woods of Pine fir & poplar a vast number of Succers amongst the rapids - a deal of Burnt wood on the SWt side low down near the Lake, being burnt this Spring - The Distances betwixt the Methy Portage & the Athapescow river I think are all of them estimated too small - Light breezes at East, cloudy cold weather. Got 2 Swans & 2 Ducks a little before we put up at the side of the Buffalo Lake.

May 31st Thursday - Lay by ¼ mile from the mouth of the river on the SW side – where we must remain until the Ice clears away - Set a net in the mouth of the river & got 60 pretty Large Pike from 4 to 20 lbs each also a few Succers – we also caught 20 Pike with Angling - at 6 PM Mr Roderick McKenzie, the Canadian Master who wintered at the Athapescow lake neighbours to our People - in one light Canoe nearly having only 15 Packs of furrs. - 6 working men – also 1 Canoe of Southern Indians contg 2 men, they are going to see some of their Countrymen up Beaver river - they are also obliged to remain here until the Ice seperates - Fresh breezes at SE, clear & cloudy alternate - We gave the Canadians some of our Fish. -

June 1st Friday –

Wind & weather as yesterday - caught a good quantity of Pike, employed splitting & drying them, for Provision to put us out to Cumberland House. - We had only 15 lbs of Pemmican to each Canoe when we arrived here, all our Beat meat & the Little fatt we had being all expended.

2nd Saturday - Wind & weather as on the 31st May splitting & drying Pike as before, took up the nett as we have already caught a sufficient quantity with it & the Hooks - Pitched our Canoes. -

3rd Sunday –

Angling & caught a good quantity employed splitting & drying them - Watered our Canoes. Wind & wear as before

4th Monday - Caught a few fish with the Hooks - Light breezes & variable a good deal of rain in the afternoon, evening Calm - The state of the Ice in the Lake much the same as when we at first arrived here - 3 years after or in 1795 the Canadians built a House about 2 miles from the Lake up the Methy river on SW side - but only remained at it one winter

5th Tuesday Light breezes at SSE, cloudy smoaky air, a thick Fogg in the morning from the Lake - The Ice also moved a little, we are heartily tired all of us remaining here so long, & cannot stir caught a few Fish in Angling - also killed 2 Geese -

6th Wednesday - Tied up 2 good bundles each canoe of dryed Pike – Fresh breezes Southerly hot weather. The Ice broke a good deal - and at 5 ¼ PM

June we got underway and carried every thing about 1 ½ miles along shore – then led thro the Ice (a very cold job) ½ a mile & came to clear water & halted all night, the exact form I could not then determine, but have since found it to be very near the sketch form went as under –

Paddled all night & put up near the Canadian House at 5 am on the 7th The Grizzie Bears hill is about 7 miles from the lake & appears to lay in the direction of the Buffalo Lake – which is nearly NW & SE – Willows about the entrance of the mighty river, & coming along the NE shore you come into the proper direction – a sandy low shore all along the NW – very deep water in this lake – it is called the Buffalo Lake, by reason of some few of those animals have been killed in its vicinity, near the Gryzzie Bear hill – there are amongst those hills some few nice grassy planes free from wood – Their elevation is about 1800 feet above the lake – Mr McKenzie passed us in the night.

7th Thursday – At 8 ¾ am got underway & went as under –

A at that point a large hummock of poplar – B a shole sandy point that projects ½ way out to opposite shore

June 7th Went in a narrow of about 40 yds wide & very deep – N ¼ - NW 1 ¼ Double Alt

The May 31st – 1791 –
bold land on the east end of it, low on the West side & grassy – then entered the Egg Lake called by the Jepowyans Eg ga za too ah –

Went along a narrow about from 4 to 600 yards wide, bold rocky banks upon both sides – SE 1 ¼ - ESE 1 ¼ - E ¾ - SbSE 1 – SbE 1 & put up at 8 pm at the old French house in the Buffalo lake found 4 canoes of Jepowyans got only 1 swan from them - & at the entrance of this East narrow found 23 Canoes of Southern Indians belonging to the Beaver river, got nothing from them but 80 or 90 Gull Eggs – Light breezes & variable intermixt with calms. Thick smoky air – sailed some part of the Day.

8th Friday – Went as under (embarked at 3 ¼ am) SEbE 1 ¼ - SE ½ SbSE 1 ½ EbS ½ a small creek on N side – ESE 1 ½ - SEbE ¾ - SE 1 – SebS 1 – SSE 1 ½ these 3 last courses ½ mile wide, stony rocky, steep shore – pine & aspen – then went as under.

June 8th Arrived at the Isle a la Crosse House, our residence during the Winter of 1790, Roderick McKenzie embarked from the House about ¾ of an hour before we arrived, he passed us in the Buffalo Lake in the night of the 6th Inst – we sailed some part of the day - Wind variable intermixt with Calms until 8 AM Then fixed at West & blew a strong Gale -

9th Saturday - Lay by here all Day - The Southern Indian that accompanied us from the Athapescow Lake to the Slave Lake & back again the last Summer promised Mr Ross that he would wait our arrival at this place at this time & that he would conduct us a new & short way into the Saskatchewan river, up the Beaver river near the Green Lake & that there was a communication from thence, to a large Bison pound Portage of about 7 miles that carried into the Sitting river, that empties itself into the Saskatchewan river a few miles below Huxtons House. a Mr Graham Master here treated us very kindly, by the orders of Mr Wm. Melville who left word to supply us in any kind of articles & that we might stand in need of & that was in their possession - such conduct as this is what we have never before experienced from the Canadians - the Last Night we left our Canoes in the Water, & the wind rising in the Night blew one of them across the Bay. luckily we again found it unhurt. Strong Gale at N. cloudy cold weather with a little Snow - The Canadian Master supplied us with an 8 Gallon Keg of fatt to eat with our dry Pie - a little Thread to repair our nets with, & a few fish hooks which was all we solicited of him.

10th Sunday - The Southern Indian not arriving. we set off for Cumberland House the same way we came in 1790 - we have no pilot to conduct us thro, these numerous & intricate Lakes, between these 2 places, but by Mr Turnors Maps that he had drawn of these places - on our passage here - I also kept a Journal of our Route, from Cumberland to the Isle a la Crosse - in 1790 - but as it was upon small detached pieces - some of which I unluckily lost. I had no books or Paper at that time to minute down every thing - respecting the Lakes. & believe this & Cumberland house I am obliged to draw & write upon Birch wood for want of Paper - Went in Isle a la Crosse Lake –

1792 109 Snake Lakes

June 10th Isle a la Crosse Lake

B a semi Grasse point, C where an observation for latitude was made in 1790 which is 55° 40' – In my other Journal of this way, the altitude &c were marked down – but losing it I can only give the result that is the latitude alone. This will be in general the case all the way to Cumberland House – only the Latitude will be given, Location of Beaver river mouth is in Lat^{d} 55°..29'..9" & Long^{d} 107°.39' & the Isle a la crosse being in Lat 55°.25'.45" & Long^{d} 107°..47'..0" – Went in a small river about 70 yard wide 8 ⅓ a rapid (led on SS in 1790) SbSE ½ another pretty strong rapid 40 yards (led in 1790) on N side, put up here, Lat^{d} 55°..54'..9" P[er] a aquilae 1790. A fine up putting place on South side. –

11th Monday Went in Cross Lake as under.

June 11th Went down the river, which is about 60 yards wide; strong current & full of rapids, SE ¼ a rapid (led 60 yards S side 1790) ENE ¼ a rapid - NEbN ⅓ a rapid (led both these on the N side in 1790) than came to a carrying place 330 yards over, on the South side the river, fine open grass land on the Outage, Lat. P[er] ⊙ [sun] 56° 0'..13" in 1790 - This fall is commonly shot in going down, with the light Canoes - then NEbN ⅓ NEbN ⅕ a rapid led on S side 40 yards in 1790 - ESE ⅕ - ENE ¾ all a strong rapid led it on the South side in 1790, but in coming before the current, with Good Water & lightish loaded Canoes all these rapids are shot down, which we did - ENE ¼ nearly ¼ mile wide, this last course, then enter a kind of narrow grassy lake - or rather the river at present is wider, but it appears that in ancient times this has been a small lake, & now dryed up - as there is nothing else but willows & a low swampy part. a sure sign of its being formerly all water.

150 yards wide - A is the mouth of the Grey Deers river, this way the Indians sometimes go to the Athapescow lake - but it is too short for large loaded Canoes to attempt it - a few miles from its mouth a very large lake that this river (Deers) fall cut off called the Deers lake full of Islands - & very deep water, went in the grass river, which has pretty good current, low grassy sides & small woods along it - about 100 yards wide, tho' the upper part of it below the following rapids is 300 yards - ENE ¼ a strong rapid led on N side 100 yards in 1790 - N ½ steep rocks upon both sides of the river at this place, a small Island in the middle, & a small creek on the North side about 8 yards wide - NE ¼ a strong rapid led 200 yards on the North side in 1790, river widens - SE 2 ½ - ESE 1 - SEbS 1 ½ - SE 2 ¼ - SEbS ½ a small Island in the river - SEbE 1 - E ½ - SEbS ¼ - ENE ¼ a small rapid at the end of the SEbS ¼ course - then arrive at a Carrying place upon the North side 440 yards over. pretty good carrying, but stony towards the upper end. A very steep fall here - Then in the river as before, ESE ½ a rapid 250 yards set it up with poles in 1790 - SEbS ⅓ strong current, & nearly ¼ mile wide from the carrying place - then Enter Primos Lake, from the name of Canadian who built a house in this lake in 1777 – a went in the lake as follows

June 11th went down a river with strong current & several very bad shoal rapids 100 yds wide – NbE 1 ½ - ENE ¾ two very bad rapids, led up in 1790 on South side but now necessated to carry the rapids all so very shole 250 yards at the upper end we custed – a small Island in the middle of the river, when the ughe is your shoch on the N side of it, commonly the Canadians makes a portage on S side of 1370 yards long to avoid these 2 rapids & 2 more, a little way below when the water is shole. Then went SbW ½ a bay is on the margin. Led 200 yards on S side in 1790, a Stony rapid –
[drawing in margin]

a little below another rapid bush in coming up it is landed – Then East ½ and came to another carrying place on N side 10 yards over a rock – we shot it down as casual nothing – sometimes the canoes are led up all the way on the South side & so avoids the Portage – we carried here in 1790 – NE ½ a strong rapid & very large stones very bad Landing – steep rocks on the South side – ENE ½ These short rapids led them all up in 1790 on the N side – all the 3 is not more than 200 yards long, but bad owing to the very large stones, sometimes the Canoes is upon a stone & the next stop you take are up to the middle in the water – high steep banks on both sides of the river – below the carrying place. Then enter another Lake called the Knee Lake as below

June 12th

A 1790 Octr 2nd

1790 ☉ Octr 2nd

A

#	☿ ☌ ☉ M L
0 . 14 . 20	02 . 9 . 15
15 . 5	— 9 . 0
15 . 35	— 8 . 30
16 . 0	— 8 . 15
+ 58 16 . 26	— 8 . 0
16 . 55	— 7 . 30
17 . 28	— 7 . 15
18 . 0	— 7 . 0
18 . 33	— 6 . 45
19 . 5	— 6 . 30
0 . 16 . 45	02 . 7 . 48
+ 13 . 33	− 8 . 7 . 25
0 . 30 . 18	74 . 0 . 23
Long^e Mt.	105 . 58 . 30

Low Land Goodpenny

#	☿ ☌ ☉ M L
1 . 45 . 12	01 . 21 . 0
45 . 56	— 20 . 30
46 . 31	— 20 . 15
47 . 12	— 20 . 0
+ 64 47 . 55	— 19 . 30
48 . 21	— 19 . 15
48 . 52	— 19 . 0
49 . 21	— 18 . 45
49 . 48	— 18 . 30
50 . 17	— 18 . 30
1 . 47 . 56	01 . 19 . 31
+ 13 . 03	− 8 . 7 . 25
2 . 1 . 29	73 . 12 . 6
	105 . 57 . 30

#	☌ ☉ M L
16 . 31 . 21	66 . 27 . 30
32 . 23	— 28 . 0
33 . 3	— 28 . 30
33 . 50	— 28 . 45
+ 37 34 . 36	— 29 . 15
35 . 21	— 29 . 45
36 . 4	— 30 . 30
36 . 46	— 30 . 45
37 . 29	— 31 . 15
38 . 22	— 31 . 30
16 . 34 . 55	66 . 29 . 34
+ 14 . 3	− 8 . 7 . 25
16 . 48 . 58	58 . 22 . 9
	107 . 9 . 45

	° ′ ″
☉ ☍ ♃	29 . 57 . 30
aa	29 . 58 . 59
♀ ☍ ♃	18 . 45 . 20
aa	17 . 53 . 45
♀	− 15 . 42
☉	− 16 . 3
♀ ☊	− 57 . 16
	+18″ − 22′ 50″ . 5 + 5″ . 5
	74° . 9′ . 41″

	° ′ ″
☉ ☍ ♃	25 . 16 . 30
aa	25 . 18 . 20
♀ ☍ ♃	6 . 28 . 1
aa	5 . 39 . 38
♀	− 15 . 39
☉	− 16 . 3
♀ ☊	− 57 . 18
	−2″ . 5 − 20′ 13″ . 5 + 5″
	73 . 23 . 37

	° ′ ″
♃ ☍ ♄	48 . 26 . 30
aa	48 . 27 . 21
♀ ☍ ♃	36 . 18 . 30
aa	35 . 02 . 45
♀	− 15 . 56
☊	− 57 . 54
	+16″ . 5 − 29′ 12″ . 5 + 6″
	57 . 37 . 23

Dat ☉ M L

#	° ′ ″
2 . 4 . 42	56 . 31 . 15
+ 64 5 . 20	— 23 . 45
5 . 52	— 18 . 15
2 . 5 . 18	56 . 24 . 25
+ 13 . 32	− 8 . 7 . 25
2 . 18 . 50	48 . 17 . 0

Dat ☉ ☌ L

#	° ′ ″
2 . 6 . 27	55 . 8 . 15
+ 64 6 . 57	— 3 . 0
7 . 26	54 . 57 . 45
2 . 6 . 57	55 . 3 . 0
+ 13 . 33	− 8 . 7 . 25
2 . 20 . 30	46 . 55 . 35

Dat. Chronom.

#	° ′ ″
16 . 50 . 45	79 . 37 . 15
+ 37 57 . 53	— 48 . 15
53 . 4	— 55 . 30
16 . 51 . 54	79 . 47 . 0
+ 14 . 3	− 8 . 7 . 25
17 . 5 . 57	71 . 39 . 35

Latitude Lew 55 . 50 . 56 — Mean Longitude 106 . 21 . 55 Mt. Pen Commend

June 13th Wednesday Went down Grass river, with low grassy sides about from 40 to 300 yards wide, easy current with here & there bare rocks at the waters edge particularly on NE side – willows in general at the water edge – with several small swamps on the SW side joins the river – ENE ½ about 300 yards wide, ESE ¾ - N ½ a small river fall in to this on the NE side about 20 yards wide, middling current – [drawing in margin]

SE ¼ - N ¼ - NEbN ⅓ – SSE 1 – SE ½ - S 1 – SW 1 – NW ¾ - SSW ½ - S ½ - SSE ¼ then left the main river & entered a small branch of it on the East side, very crooked short turnings – low grassy & swampy – no woods near it – Went down it about 4 miles making EbS 1 ¾ & entered a small lake – then went by the main channel as a considerable distance round about – went in a small lake as under –

Then went in an other river about 300 yards wide, easy current & bold banks on the N side – small poplars, a rapid on the E side The Island & shoal – on the W or S side of it, good deep water – Went down the river NE ½ - NEbN 1 ¼ - NE 1 ¼ & entered the Cross Lake – as under.

Then entered Snake river about 70 yards wide – the observation for Lat[d]

June 13th was taken in 1790 about ½ mile from the head of the river, in a small sandy bay on the South side – ESE ¾ led ½ mile of it on S side in 1790 SSE ¾ another very bad rapid as the last, led ⅓ mile on S side in 1790 – river here 100 yds wide – at this last rapid high rocks on the East side the stones are very slippery here, with a green slime which makes these 2 rapids very bad to hand the canoes up – because the stones all large & the poles are very difficult to keep from fastening amongst them SE 1 ¼ & entered the Snake Lake – The upper half of this last reach a rapidy current & bad poling the canoes up it – the course past easy current with a few rocks on SW side – on NE side, a fine high bank with firs & the S Eastern extremity of the Jepowyan Country, that they can go from this point onto their own lands without every having the business to use a Canoe – no river or Lakes of any magnitude intersecting in that direction.

14th Thursday – Went in Snake Lake as below

June 14th Went on Mouse Lake as below –

A struggling pines upon this Island, a good march either way, a Brush headed pine on the South side the *P* in the Face way. To be seen only in going toward the Isle a la Crosse – high mountainous bare rocks nearly all along the N side of this Lake - & the Southern, rather low, covered with pretty stout pine, Birch, Asp &c – a rise at the Eastern end of the Lake on the South over near the entrance of the river – to be seen from about 6 miles on the Bear Lake. The islands in the Lake very rocky with a few small pines on them, carry out of this Lake on N side 90 yards over a small projecting narrow point the 2 falls each of the lake is to the South of us - & forms an Island & at high water makes 2 Islands – The stones upon this rocky carrying place very sharp resembling a honey comb. That the Canadians Term it the Pin Portage – these falls are shott down sometimes with the high water – went down the river which is 400 yards wide NE ½ & crossed the river to the South side & carry there a point of poplars 440 yds. A stout Rise 30 yard long on the east end of it – This Fall is not to steep & bad as the other one we have just left – SE 1 easy current, a Landing place of 60 yards just below the carrying place on the same side – E ¾ & carried on N side 100 yards out of this River into the Black Bear Island Lake – between the moose Lake & this as under –

June 15th Friday – Went in Black Bear Island Lake as under – This is a very intricate Lake, to go thro, on account of its great Length & the great number of Islands & openings, all the way thro it – Went as under

16th Saturday Black Bears Lake contd

B a high Thoni rocky Island a good Mark going either way as it may be seen a good distance either way – C high steep Bee perpendicular Lake & a manote or 2 Barinded in led on the face of them, behind small Birch branches D high bare rocky with burnt woods on them & a fen small poplars – a few mas to going down as it is the most intricate.

June 16 Black Bear Island Lake Continued

17th Sunday A carry on shore 200 yards, good, Thro poplars, Lat. 55°..34'..36" P[er] Double

a very steep fall – The Land all round the Lake & the island are rocky in general – covered with small stony – in many places particularly towards the NW end there is no possibility of knowing the main Land from the Islands – at the portage A carry with another small kind of Lakes - & go down it 2 courses then the East ¼ is a large rapid extending quite across the river, with 2 Islands in the middle – it is always easy to shott down the middle – in going downwards – but the S side is the least in coming up, as the canoe may be handed up clean along the shore where the current is not very strong – Then enter a Lake called the Trout Lake & go thro it as over the East – it has also rocky land nearly all round it covered with dwarfy pines tho – good Trout to be caught in this Lake near the other end at the E hills

June 17th Went in Trout Lake as under.

Latitude at A 55°.41'.5" P[er] a aquilae 1790 – Portage on the South side 180 yards over – keep nearly close along the West short of the Lake all the way thro it – strong current in the narrows – put up at the mouth of the creek that falls out of an other lake, where Mr Alexander Fraser wintered 1791 – the mouth of the creek about ¼ mile above the fall. The Fall is very steep - & a rocky portage –

18th Monday – Went in a river as under – NNE ¼ 2 rapids, one of 30 & the other of 50 yards long led them up both on North side in 1790 – The lower one

very strong – then the river becomes nearly ¼ mile wide, with easy courses NEbN ½ & carry over a smooth rocky carrying place on the South side 120 yards over, a very strong fall here, but not steep, running between rocks about 15 yards as under - & on a smooth rocky bottom – then enter on other river ENE ⅙ – a bad rapid led 40 yards on N side in 1790 – 2 or 3 Branches here, keep the South one as there is the most water – NNE ⅙ strong current NE ⅙ strong current & short rapid, then come to a bad rapid carried 50 yards over rocks on the South side, a kind of small creek on NWest side at the North side an Island being too little water in it. the way the Canadians usually pass when the water is high - & when very low in coming up they carry about 480 yards on S side & avoids another rapid a little below the one we now carry up – EbS ¼ strong current – ESE ¼ strong current a small bay in the river here in the South side – ENE ⅙ a short rapid 40 yards long – between rocks steep sometimes paddle up it then enter another small Lake as on other such

June 18th

Then went down on other river, pretty short with several rapids in it – SSE ¼ - SEbE ¼ strong current, & a small by here in the river on the West side – SEbS ⅙ strong current – E ⅙ – a carrying place on East side thro wood 130 yards over – where they carry past & hand up the canoes with the other half of the cargo in – when the water is high nothing is carried here, but all led up in the canoe – it is a strong rapid but easy to shoot down it: a steep bank on the East end of the Carrying place, tho short. – very stony & shoal far out in the river at the upper end of the Portage. – NE ½ - E ⅙ strong current – SW ⅓ easy current – SEbE ⅙ strong current & a rapid 80 yards long where we led up the Canoes in 1790. – in the upper end of the reach. NEbN ½ & entered a lake as below – this river about 50 yards wide, low banks in places, in other spots high banks with rocky sides –

A The Devils Carrying Place & Tall – 1170 yards
Over on North side – rather wet in places – a bad Track to carry the canoe – which is generally handed up with half cargo in it all the way, except 350 yards at the lower end which is always carried over a point – on the fall at that place is very shoal & steep as on the margin in the emerging place
[drawing in margin]

June 18th Latd 55°..40'..14" P[er] Double Altd ☉ [sun] LL in 1790 - & Longd P[er] dead reckoning 104.41 W – The Portage now pretty good Pines & upon it except towards the lower end where is pretty open at the place B is a branch to across the Carrying Place bush the nafuk are dense & berries having to carry a 24 different places – the bush short each – Therefore the long way is the most agreeable of the two – along this is also another way – but still the easiest of the whole – 100 yards at the East end of the carrying place is very wet & swampy – then went as below –

This small river about 80 yards wide – low grassy & stony sides & very thicketty – all these rapids (5) are handed up in the river – They are in shole years of water very bad to cross either going down or coming up –

19th Tuesday – Went in a kind of small lake as below.

& arrive at the other carrying place on the North side 610 yards over – but coming down every thing is shott from the rapid & on along the N side in the canoe - & in coming up the half cargo is carried & the canoe is handed up with the remainder, at the bottom a large rock projects into the river & makes it [drawing in margin]

difficult to get the canoe past it with safety Latitude 55°..39'..28 N – good carrying over the carrying place – a small creek at the East end of it where part of the cargo is taken out. Then go down the river SEbS 1 the upper part of which is a rapidy current & then enter Otter Lake.

June – A a pretty high, rocky Island, & pretty bare with some burnt areas upon it & several sets of Indian Tent poles – about W from the entrance of the narrow which is difficult to find – at the East point of the last Island at ESE ⅕ a small capped froni upon a low small point on the river. This lake is very good go steady – round with small pines in general, & Rocky, with several low wet places - & really difficult to find apecrons way thro it on account of the great number of islands, & each being scarcely able to distinguish the main land from the Islands – Carry out of this Lake on the North side, 120 yards, good but rocky the West end, a very steep fall here 24 feet perpendicular nearly falling over 4 different banks or blo stairs – [drawing in margin]

then go down the river SE ⅓ & eigh it & carry over a hill on the South side 100 yards – The hill steep both ways – at the carrying places the main falls about ⅓ mile off & is the largest one I ever saw in any part of this Country. It falls in two places. Both perpendicular – but the lowest engulphs that Trees & that arrive down it is kept there from floating away – the pressure & force of the water lying nigh above them – that it is by one piece coming down that extricates the other that has been there – it is awfully grand terrifying to look nearly at it – Then went in a kind of Lake as under

B Burnt wood upon that Island a few mark – C ohys rocky pine Island, may be seen a good distance any way, a good mark – it appears round at the top B the entrance only about 5 yards wide between rocks

June 19th Went in another small lake as under

Carry on North side 90 yards part, the other part is taken up in the Canoe by handing along shore – we now shot it down. & put up here - & set our nets

20th Wednesday – Took up our net, having little success – we have frequent in in the evening, after we put up – & overhauled it next morning – but our fish in angling procures us in general the best luck altho it was seldom any thing else we caught than Pike – which in the stormy season greedily take a bait – went in another Lake as under –

A the mouth of the rapid river, a short one, but several rapids in it & Carrying places – that fills out of a pretty large lake, where the Canadians have ever since had an establishment since 1778 – from thence overland in the Winter is but a short distance to Cumberland House, the Indians in the summer in Canoes only sleep 2 nights – but it is too shoal to attempt it with Canoes loaded. Then we go down the Miss en ne pee or Churchil river, here it only acquires that name & below, but it is the same water that comes from the Isle a la Crosse. A Carrying place out of this Lake 110 yards over on the South side – good carrying – but little firewood on the carrying place that is dry – a heavy fall here, river about 200 yards wide – put up here – for heavy rain –

June 21st Thursday – Went in mis sin ne pee or Churchill river as below

A carry over an Island (Tooky) in the middle of the river, gore carrying, miles the Kettle carrying place – on account of several very round holes of a cylindrical form, from 1 to 5 feet in diameter perfectly smooth & found some with a stone within loose – that had serviced to make the excavation by the falling water & strong current moving the stone & by its friction causing them kind of Stone Kettles above mentioned, these have been formed when these places have been the bottom of the river, now the rocks are above the surface 4 or 5 feet – others are now forming on the bottom & in plenty of time, the waters will subside & leave similar forms to be seen – the water are yearly opening – by the very visible marks of

June 21st it upon the Rocks that are above 6 feet above their present level & the waters in a years space cannot make those marks so permanent as they are at present, for neither rains, or Frosts, will obliterate them They seem imbedded in the Stone - which this must have been the high wet Mark for a great number of years or rather, the usual height, - a heavy fall here - on both sides the Island, the Id is near the N side - A a steep rubble, led up on the North side - B carry 90 yards over a point thro the Woods on the North side - a steep hill on East end of it - good carrying - when the carrying place is left going up keep close along the North shore round the Bay to keep from the suction of the head of the Fall which is steep - above the carrying place river about 20 yards wide - & strong current till it spreads wide. D the Grand Rapid 720 yards over on the North side good carrying - a steep hill on E't end of it about 20 yards long – this an excellent place for angling Pike at the Eddy where the Canoes land - Latitude P[er] Double alt ☉ [sun] LL 55°..22'.33" & Long P[er] Dead Reckg 103°.48' a very strong fall, but not steep - several Canadians have been wounded here in running the Fall down - & one year in particular a whole Canoes people were lost. - There is away upon the South side by having 2 short carrying places, that avoids the big one – however this last is generally preferred - ¼ mile above the upper end of this Carrying Place is a fall all the way across the river, which is 3 or 400 yards wide, over a smooth rock - led the Canoes on the N side near the shore - a loped Pine at the Point - ½ mile below the lower end of the Carrying place, the channel is contracted to 20 yds where the current drives thro' with smoothness but with a great velocity - keep close along the North side - a strong eddy current between this & the Carrying place - Left Churchill river - at the Athake sake spitcheen & carried over a wet portage with strong at the East and 370 yards into a small swampy Creek - this is the height of land at this place - the water we now carry into confines itself with Portraits on river about 4 miles NW of the Factory - The Missinnippee or Churchill river

June 21st spreads wide in places to 2 or 3 miles or more like a lake, & wherever it contracts it self – so sure is there to be either strong current or Hearty Falls – an old Canadian House of Mr Joseph Frobisher at the East end of this carrying place built about 1777 - & called Portage de Trate, on account of the years close they went to meet the Indians in the spring that was going down to Churchill to trade their skins from them. Latitude 55°..25'..30" Long 103°..28' per Dead reckoning – went thro this kind of swampy creek 3 miles between NWbE & SSW making SSE 1 ½ & came to an other portage on S side 90 yards over the creek being choked up with large stones here – That in some years when the water is low the canoe also must be carried – this swampy creek nom 5 to 500 yards wide as below – went below the carrying place then the same kind of creek 1 ¼ mile making ESE ¾ & entered a small Lake & put up.

22nd Friday Very wet swampy sides all along the Creek, here & there a rock with much grass that it is troublesome to get the Canoe forced thro it – very dirty bad water to drink & a number of large Hroc leeches in it – Went in a small lake as under –

The Islands in general are rocky covered with small pine - & the shores are the same A a high round fine Island a good mark – about 5 yards between it & the main land. Rocky in the entrance. B a kind of small river 20 yards wide & grassy low swampy sides - & in the bend of it, it is stony & must be gone thru with caution – C fine Encampment of Land in the Creek that we passed last night the muskettoes were very numerous & troublesome - & no good sleeping place all thro it. At this season – the woods are so very dense & no wind, a proper place for these troublesome insects. Went in the Woody Lake as under.

June 22nd Went in Woody Lake

A a high bare rocky Island; bare on the SE side & steep grass close on the S West side it – a good mark going up. B a high round rocky dome & near the shore, a good mark also – C a fine bare place of woods & some grass a good up putting place – the hills from the Island B lies right in the plain way of finding the narrow entrance, a good mark – also 1 large high tall pine tree burnt near the mouth of the entrance, & burnt woods open the hill in the direct line – very rocky & scabrous all round this lake particularly upon the NW side, then went along a kind of Lake, very ragged Land thru it, rocky & several bays

D at the point burnt wood – E rocky & Tent poles opposite the entrance F high steep bare rocks at the cheek of the entrance then come to a carrying place 90 yards, over good at the back of this another Fall – this fall 1 perpendicular shoot of 12 feet. In coming out Mr Turnor lost us half a day in the NE 2 ½ - he having omitted it - & in looking over my sketch taken fall 1790 had it, which set us again in the right way. All along rocky shores, overcast with fine – Got 2 swans – here – betwixt the woody Lake & this portage so very many bays that it is difficult to find the right way – it is impossible to mark every turning, bay & island they are so very numerous – put up on East end

June 23rd Saturday Went in Lakes &c as below –

A a portage over a small Island on South side 20 yards, rocky. B a portage on the North side over bare rocks steep on the East side – 60 yds C Carry past on North side & hand up the canoes with the remainder – a very shoal place – only the width of the Canoe – between high perpendicular rocks – a small space below, to carry close along the river – stony & bad each at the lower end 130 yards over, - very rocky all along, covered with small juni[pre] – on the Pelican Lake an old Canadian House – it is now entirely down – built on a fine small sandy bay about the year 1779 – a high bluff of pine on the hills in the direction of the narrow from the old French house – burnt woods on the Island D. Then went thro the narrow as under & also thro the Stony Lake –

2 ½ hours paddle thro this lake, The Point A burnt pines, & high round Island of pine close on the SW side, - a little sandy Bay at the back of the point, a great fishing place with the Canadians, the entrance of the narrow difficult to find on account of the several bays on that direction, use missed the right entry & cost us nearly all round the last bay of 3 miles, deep & nearly lost ½ day before we put into the right track again – came to the Pine Carrying place on the North side & carried 220 yards, good, a hill on the West end of it – burnt woods – a shoal place to unload at, at the West end – Strong current a little slow the Portage.

June 23rd Went as under –

24th Sunday – Went on a kind of rocky small Lake as below –

B a small Island in the middle of the River carry

over it 15 yds a pretty steep fall here – all the above sketches, The Land is broken & indented into Bays with a rocky shore, & small woods – C the Bush carrying place, carried out of a kind of Lake into the river – 480 yards over – the last end very wet - & the West end steep rocks near the water – at the back of the Big Island is a small river of about 4 miles long that falls out of a pretty Large Lake – several small rapids in the Creek

at the small I^D D a rapid on both sides the Island, led up in 1790 20 yards – the high water is on the North

side the Island – Latitude here 54°.50'.18" P[er] Double Alt ⊙ LL 1790 – E a bad rapid carry past on the North side 240 yards.
1792 129 Long shoal rapid

June 24th good, a steep hill on the East end of the Portage - the lower end of the Rapid is the worst & shoalest - then go down another Grass river, from 40 to 100 yards wide, with grassy low sides, & Rocks, quick base in some few places - easy current in general - - SEbS ½ a strong shock of smooth current - SbE 1 ¼ - SbE ⅛ - SSW ¼ - SbE ½ - SEbS ½ - SSE ¼ - SbE ½ & carried over a small hill on the North side, 80 yards good - a perpendicular fall here of 11 feet - contracted to 6 yards betwixt rocks - in the eddy of the Fall below a noted place for dipping fish out of the river with a hooponett - a great number of Pelicans in the summer time remain at the foot of the fall to catch fish - which they find plentifully. Went SSW ⅛ – WSW ¼ - S & ESE ½ - SSE & SW ¼ - WSW & W ⅓ - SSW ¼ - SSE ⅓ - SW ¼ & SSE ¼ - SSE ½ - SW & S ¼ - SSE ¼ - SSW ¼ nearly ⅓ of a mile wide & two bays in the river are under, which a person is very apt to go into if not taking particular notice, & throws one a good while out of a persons way as the bay either way extend to a considerable distance.

Then went SE ½ - ESE 1 - N ¼ SSE ¾ - ESE ⅓ - N ¼ - SE ¼ - NNW ¼ - N to SE ½ - SEbE ¼ – ESE ½ - N ⅛ from ENE to S 1 this last all a very shoal bad rapid led along the North side, & carried the thing, 450 yards over the worst of it so very shoal - when good water ¾ of an hour good work to go up it with a Loaded Canoe. Fine high bank on N side, but little or no track thru the woods - put up here - then last 3 or 4 miles have rocks upon the South side in several places – also a few low rocky places on the North side good spots for Encamping at – a little way above the bad shoal rapid, much grass, rushes & willows close to the waters edge - & the width of the river in general from 300 to 100 yards wide - below the Twugle nearly 400 yards wide –

June 25th Monday – Went down the same river as last night – as follows – SE 1 strong current & small rocky Island in the middle of the river with a little pine upon it – a little above a small willow I[D] – ESE ⅓ – NW to E r ½ - SE ¾ - E to S ¾ - EbN ½ - NNW ⅓ – NNE ⅓ – near EbN 1 ¼ - ESE ¼ & carried over the Eagle Carrying place on the North side 280 yards pretty good carrying – a big fall, like going down a pair of stairs notwithstanding the Canadians shoot down it the light Canoes – this fall has something remarkable – as not a single sturgeon was ever seen above it, in any part of this track to the Athapescow & Slave lakes – altho they are plentiful close at the foot of it, & the Indians occasionally make a fishing weir here to catch them & other fish; the falls being so steep probably stops them from proceeding any farther, or whether or not it may be owing to different water, foods, &c. I cannot say but think that it is owing to the Fall being too steep. Then went SE ¼ - E to S ¾ - EbS ½ - SEbE ¼ - EbN ¼ - E ⅓ – SE ⅛, ESE ¼ & entered Beaver Lake as below – below this last Carrying place, high bare rocks on the South side in 2 or 3 places with a good deal of small burnt pines between them –

June 25th The Water in Beaver Lake is very deep, & clear - an abundance of Fine Large Trout are to be caught in it at all seasons, but particularly in the Winter in nets set under the Ice - near the entrance of the river on SW side are very high steep bare rocks, that from the mouth of Sturgeon weir river they appear like ships under sail - & a ship some person has marked upon the rocks, denoting their appearance - The Ice in this lake is very late in breaking to pieces in the Spring - seldom before the latter end of May & sometimes June, owing to the great depth of the water, & its coldness which in the summer time is several degrees colder than other lakes are, Latitude P[er] Double Alt of the ☉ **α**D - at the head of the river, in 1790 is 55°.25'.14" - Went down Sturgeon weir river, SE ¾ all a stony shoal rapid - S ⅓ easy current & 200 yards wide - SE ½ in which are 2 rapids, SW ¼ one strong rapid - SE ½ a very stony rapid hand up on the North side - sometimes carry on the South side 100 yards, thru a small point of woods very indifferent - ESE ¼ one rapid - E ⅔ one rapid - SW ½ in which are two rapids - SEbS ¾ one rapid - E ⅓ one rapid - SE ¼ one rapid - EbS ½ two rapids, end of the upper rapids - river above about 100 yards wide & some places more - 62 miles, nearly 300 yards wide easy current but shoal & stoney on several places, a small island in the middle of it, keep on the North side it - a small cove also on the North side - ESE & E ¾ easy current - EbW & NNE ½ easy current - EbN ¾ easy current & stony as it is indeed all the way thru this easy current, & nearly 300 yards wide - low banks, grassy, & good pines on both sides of the river - put up -

26th Tuesday - Proceeded down Sturgeon weir river as last evening - ESE ¼ EbN ¼ easy current, now commences the middle & shoalest rapids of any in the whole river - near SE 1 ½ in which are 5 rapids, & come to an open place in the river, about 300 yards wide, above this river being narrow - a fine barren ground bank on the North side, & steep, here is a dam of stones built all across the river, to stop the Sturgeon, where a fishing weir, was used annually some years back to be kept in repair to catch the Sturgeon before the Small pox in 1781 - from this spot the river derives its name, this is now a very bad shoal point to pass into

June 26th the Canoes, - SE 1. 200 yards wide, & easy current, but in the reach one rapid 100 yards long - The rapids in general are upon a smooth limestone rock, with small honey combs in them extending quite across the river, where the current glides over with a very great velocity, but in many places smooth, very slow to the feet walking upon them – SE ½ - E & EbS ½ one rapid 20 yards long NE to EbN ¼ one rapid 30 yards long - near NE 1 one rapid 200 yards long. – ESE to SSE ¾ 3 rapids - NNE & ENE ½ - near E 1 a small assion I^D & one rapid – ENE ¼ & carried 200 yards over a fine smooth rocky level on the North Side - Latitude 54°.18'.26" P[er] Double alt. ☉ LL - a fishing weir nearly at the head of this Fall - a crooked shoal rapid - fine grass land upon the Portage - above, for 5 or 6 miles fine lofty grass banks on the North side, & very thick, on the opposite - easy current in general between the rapids – ESE ¼ a small river on the North side fall into this one called the Goose river that falls out of the Goose Lake - the North Track to York Factory, that our People with the Indians usually came when Cumberland house was built in 1773 - & for some few years after, until some passing by the way of Lake Winnipeg, & found that the most eligible way - both for the fewness of the Carrying places & rapids altho, it is a considerable way about. - it opens NNE - then, went S ¾ easy current & at the end of the reach a rapid of 200 yards long, bad - SEbS 1/8 one bad rapid – SW ¾ strong current – SEbS 1/8 a shoal stern bad rapid a small I^D in the river near the North shore, led up in 1790 - when the water is shoal, sometimes carry half of the Cargo – S ¼ strong current – SbE 1/8 one rapid – SbE ¼ strong current - SEbS & S ¼ one rapid – SSE ½ the upper end of which are one rapid & enter Cumberland House Lake - or (Sturgeon Lake) Latitude at the mouth of the river P[er] a aquilae 1790. 54°.16'.2" an old Canadian House here, but abandoned some years back - when they removed to the Beaver Lake - from this lake to the Carrying place very bad shoal & strong rapids - pretty high banks on the South side, near the mouth of the lake - with Poplars & Pine the Northern side rather lower, a good up putting place at the entrance of the lake –

June 26th Went in Cumberland, or Sturgeon Lake as under, but after going S west 12 miles we put up - & use arrival at Cumberland House, the 27th about noon – I shall therefore continue the Lake on without dividing it into so many parts –