

a journey which Father de Quen took, into the country of the Porcupine nation.

Having learned that some Christians were sick in that quarter, he had himself conducted thither by two Savages, with frightful hardships; here follows what he has written back to us. "I embarked on the 11th of July, in a little bark canoe; we toiled during five days, from daybreak till sunset, constantly paddling against the current, or against torrents, which made us strain all the sinews of the body in order to surmount them. We encountered on this journey ten falls or portages,—that is to say, we disembarked ten times, in order to pass from one river to another, or from a too rapid current to another part of the stream that was more navigable. In these portages,—some of which are a league and a half in extent; others, half a league; others, a quarter of a league,—it is necessary to carry, on one's back or head, both the boat and all [224] one's outfit, over roads which have been made only for Wild beasts, so frightful are they. It is necessary to cut through mountains, and to cross chasms hidden in the depth of the forests. We thrice changed rivers; the first on which we embarked is called the Sagné. It is a deep stream, and there is no ship which it might not carry; it is eighty brasses deep in several places, and usually it rises or falls from ten to twenty brasses. It is quite wide; its banks are scarped with frightful mountains, which gradually decrease in height until as far as 15 or twenty leagues from its mouth, where it receives in its bosom another stream, larger than itself, which seems to come from the West. We sailed another ten leagues beyond that meeting of waters, which forms,