

supper upon their arrival; for, as soon as they landed, [33] they put the kettle on the fire, expecting to see the Canoe laden with fish the moment the net was cast into the water. But God chose to punish their presumption, and deferred giving any food to the starving men until the following day.

“ On the second of September, then, after clearing this Sault,—which is not a waterfall, but merely a very swift current impeded by numerous rocks,—we entered Lake Superior, which will henceforth bear Monsieur de Tracy’s name, in recognition of indebtedness to him on the part of the people of those regions.

“ The form of this Lake is nearly that of a bow, the Southern shore being much curved, [34] and the Northern nearly straight. Fish are abundant there, and of excellent quality; while the water is so clear and pure that objects at the bottom can be seen to the depth of six brasses.

“ The Savages revere this Lake as a Divinity, and offer it sacrifices, whether on account of its size,—for its length is two hundred leagues, and its greatest width eighty,—or because of its goodness in furnishing fish for the sustenance of all these tribes, in default of game, which is scarce in the neighborhood.

“ One often finds at the bottom of the water pieces of pure copper, of ten and twenty livres’ weight. I have several times seen such pieces in the Savages’ hands; and, since they are superstitious, they keep them as so many divinities, or as presents which the gods [35] dwelling beneath the water have given them, and on which their welfare is to depend. For this reason they preserve these pieces of copper,