

of attention. On one occasion, however, while on the shores of a large lake which our french call lake de la Croix, and which is about one hundred and twenty leagues from here, I thought I saw a lunar eclipse; it was on the first of october,—If it were truly an eclipse and not merely an effect of the smoke. It ended about nine o'clock at night. I noticed also, on several occasions, especially while on lake Huron, grand displays of the aurora borealis; but incapacity, even more than lassitude, did not admit of my taking observations with sufficient accuracy to give you an adequate idea of them. We have witnessed here throughout the winter the same phenomenon, and scarcely a night has passed but the northern skies have been all aglow with the aurora borealis. And what, my Reverend Father, of fort saint Charle, where I have passed the winter? It is merely an inclosure made with four rows of posts, from twelve to fifteen feet in height, in the form of an oblong square, within which are a few rough cabins constructed of logs and clay and covered with bark. It is about a league in the . . . from 60 to 70 leagues, on the Southwest side of the lake of the Woods.⁴⁸ This lake is forty leagues in circumference. Its greatest length is north . . . Several streams put it in communication with other lakes, all of which empty into another which the savages say is larger than . . . They call it ouinipignon. This latter, farther on, gives rise to three . . . rivers which empty into the sea (as well as I can conjecture from what the kristinaux say) beyond port Nelson. It is on the shores of this last lake, about one hundred and fifty leagues from here, that I purpose passing a part of the summer with the Assiniboels, who