

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

MICHILIMAKINAC 29th March, 1779.

SIR,— I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency the 29th January when I informed you that Langlade had failed in his attempt to move the Indians from their hunt-

northwest coast of Lake Superior, some five miles above (southwest of) the mouth of Pigeon river. From here, there was a carrying place of three leagues (nine miles) in length, northward to a widening of the Pigeon. The Grand Portage settlement was the great halting place of voyageurs and an important depot for the fur trade in that section. At the other end of the trail was another fort, to protect the portage from the north; upon a map of 1737,— the first sent to France, which showed this carrying place— this latter post is called Fort St. Pierre, but by 1800, under English rule, it was styled Fort Charlotte. Grand Portage was estimated to be 900 miles by water from Sault Ste. Marie and 1800 from Montreal (Harmon's *Journal*, Andover, 1820, p. 40). Harmon tells us (p. 41) that, in 1800: "This is the Head Quarters or General Rendezvous, for all who trade in this part of the world; and therefore, every summer, the greater part of the Proprietors and Clerks, who have spent the winter in the Interior, come here with the furs which they have been able to collect, during the preceding season. This [Friday, June 13], as I am told, is about the time when they generally arrive; and some of them are already here. The people who come from Montreal with the goods, go no farther than this, excepting a few who take those articles to the Rainy lake, which are intended for Athabasca, as that place lies at too great a distance from this, to permit people who reside there to come to this place and return, before the winter commences. Those who bring the goods from Montreal, on their return, take down the furs, &c., from the north." After leaving Fort Charlotte, the voyageurs ascended Pigeon river, which is crooked and often widens into lakes, frequent short portages being made to avoid the bends and rapids. The intricate water-courses followed, were what now form the international boundary as far as the Lake of the Woods; and from there, via the Winnipeg river to Lake Winnipeg, whence the parties scattered through the Hudson bay, Assiniboine, Saskatchewan and Athabasca regions, to their respective trading posts. See description of Grand Portage in Carver's *Travels* (ed. 1778), pp. 106, 107. The map in Vol. I. of Keating's *Narrative of Major Long's Expedition to the source of St. Peter's River* (Phila., 1824), includes a detailed chart of the route from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg, "showing that there are no less than seventy-two portages, viz.: thirty-five westward of Rainy lake and thirty-seven eastward of the same place." The canoeing distance between the mouth of the Pigeon and the mouth of the Winnipeg is stated in Keating (ii., p. 144) to be 716 miles; in the same volume, the