

canoe. I think were I again to pass this bay, I would never make the traverse in this place. Our steersman, who was a Frenchman, was less daunted than I expected he would have been. We landed and found the Gov. & those with him had already arrived at the same place & encamped. This river¹ is computed to be 21 miles from point au Baie, 45 miles from the bottom of the bay² into which it empties, and 45 miles from the point which runs out above it into the lake, so that it is considered in the middle of a peninsula. I noticed in range with the mouth of the river and the point which we left, a high bluff mountain, situate a number of miles back and to the left of the river. In crossing from that point to the river it is the best object that can be selected to steer to. The land to right appears low, and thinly timbered. Each side of the small bay into which the river empties the shore is bold—the banks are composed of a dark red sand stone. The waters of the river, which are of the same color, are seen far in the large bay. They are warm & very unpalatable. On retiring to rest large fires were built up, that those persons in the canoes which were driven back, might find our encampment.

Here were several Indian graves the possessors of which it would appear by the crosses were of Roman Catholic faith.

SUNDAY, June 25.

The three canoes crossed the bay early this morning, and by 8 o'clock we were ready to ascend the river. This river runs nearly a south course through a marsh bounded on each side by high land. In winding its course along it frequently makes right angles. In a few places the current is strong, but generally it is weak. Six miles brought us to the lake.³ Its waters are rather darker than those of the river. This lake is 12 miles long and from an half to six miles broad. For the first 4 miles it is about 3 m. wide.

¹ Portage River.—Ed.

² A slip in the entry; the distance is nearer 15.—Ed.

³ Portage Lake.—Ed.