

cended. For the whole distance we kept the Indian pace and did not walk 2 miles over level ground—it was continually ascending and descending mountains from 5 to 600 feet high. The Indian who acted as guide lost the path soon after leaving the river, & we did not regain it until we came to a sugar camp of his fathers within 4 miles of the mine. In going this distance he led us wherever his fancy dictated, and with a swiftness of pace which accorded better with his strength than ours. I never underwent as great fatigue. The mercury in the Thermometer stood at 90 in the canoe—on the mountains the heat was oppressive. To see the wind waving the tops of the trees, without a single breath reaching us rendered the heat more intolerable. We passed several fine springs of water but our blood was so heated that we dared not taste them. At length we became so completely overpowered with fatigue & heat, the Doct. particularly, that we were obliged to rest every 90 or 100 rods, and when we arrived at the path I could not have gone 40 rods farther. It was about one o'clock when we stopped. Here we rested half an hour when the Gov. Lt. Mackay & several of the men arrived on their way across the portage to the mine, 2 miles from the canoes. We left 2 men and an Indian to return with the Gov. to the canoes,¹ while we took the ham and crackers he had brought & went on until we came to a spring where we set down and made a most excellent meal. We ate ham raw. We crossed one ravine and then commenced our descent towards the river. They led us directly to the rock or mass of copper which lies at the foot of the bank & close to the water. We were greatly disappointed as to size, its length being but 3 feet 8 inches its breadth 3 feet 4 in. & its thickness about 10 or 12 inches & containing 11 cubic feet as measured & computed by Capt. Douglass.

¹ *Schoolcraft* (p. 96): "The Governor had been so much exhausted by clambering up the river hills, that he determined to return to his point of landing in the river. In this attempt he was guided by one of the Ontonagon Indians, named Wabiskipenais, who missed his way, and wandered about he knew not whither."—Ed.