

formed me that Fort William at which the S. W. Co. have a house lies 78 leagues from this within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile of Lake Superior, and at the junction of three rivers. These rivers rise in a high range of mountains which extend along the whole western shore of the Lake. Vessels may go up with safety to the Fort.

Notwithstanding the river Brulé is a rapid stream it is frequently used in gaining the water of the Mississippi. It is ascended until it interlocks with the St. Croix river where a portage is made to a branch of that river. On both sides portages are made around the rapids.¹ God-

¹ The Bois Brulé is now famous as a trout stream. Du l'Hut and other French fur traders were wont to ascend it and then portage over to the headwaters of the St. Croix, by the latter waterway reaching the Mississippi. The present writer made this trip in a canoe during the summer of 1890. For ten miles up from Lake Superior, the Bois Brulé is deep and quiet, but at the present Northern Pacific railway town of Brulé are the first falls and rapids, and these continue at frequent intervals for about twenty miles; there is an abundance of water, but the work of poling up the picturesque little cataracts is one involving great labor. The Bois Brulé and the St. Croix have their origin in the same swamp; doubtless the uppermost waters are a common pool, but the former stream becomes at last so overgrown with the brush of the willow-herb that it is impossible to push a canoe farther than within two miles of Upper St. Croix Lake, which is the nominal head of St. Croix river: a more popular portage path commences somewhat lower on the Brulé than that to which the writer penetrated, but it involves a carry of four miles. The intervening country on the upper portage is quite rugged. Upper St. Croix Lake, on which is now situated the railway village of White Birch, is a beautiful pine-locked sheet of water. Rapids and falls commence not far below, and continue all the way to St. Croix Falls, where a portage is necessary; a skillful canoeist can, in a good stage of water, "shoot" all those above that, save where dammed for logging purposes. The Upper St. Croix, above the mouth of the Namakagon (a much larger stream), is the victim of drouth in summer, and canoes must then be lightened to successfully "make" many of the shallow rapids. This was a favorite old-time fur-trade route between Lake Superior and the Mississippi river, but could have little about it to attract the trader save its wild picturesqueness. Either in going up the St. Croix or the Brulé, whichever way the route lay, the passage must always have been slow and laborious, in painful contrast to the easy Fox-Wisconsin route between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi.—ED.