

quarter, as well as the valley of the St. John, with excellent mineral manure.

A short distance above the head of the Island, there is a small brook of brackish water, it proceeds from a salt spring, a mile and a half from the River. There are also other indications of rock salt in this quarter.

About a mile farther up the stream I discovered an immense ridge of limestone, at the side of the River. This limestone is stalactical like that found in the interior of caves. Apparently the River at this place, has broken into a cave of considerable magnitude, and stalactites are scattered along the shore. From the deep fissures and chasms concealed beneath fallen trees and other vegetable rubbish, it is dangerous to walk over this rock; there are many good reasons for believing that the earth is cavernous at this place.

Above Plaster Island the River becomes very serpentine, and where the intervalle is absent, the banks on each side are from fifty to a hundred feet high.

About twelve miles above the mouth of the Wapskehegan, another large Stream called the Agulquac, enters from the eastward; this Stream also passes through a fine tract of country. A large area here was overrun with fire a few years ago. It is probable that this was the same conflagration that destroyed the towns and villages of Miramichi, in October, 1825, but as there are no inhabitants in this quarter, the exact period of its occurrence has not been ascertained.

From the mouth of the Agulquac to the base of Blue Mountain, is about eleven miles, the River here is eighty yards wide, and is skirted with fine tracts of intervalle. There are also numerous alluvial Islands covered with a lofty and thick foliage.

At the foot of the Mountain the red sandstone reposes on the transition slates. The whole country from this Mountain to the mouth of the Tobique is comparatively level; but from this point northward, it assumes new features and becomes more elevated.

About eighty miles from the mouth of the Tobique, the river divides into four branches. The Little Tobique, Mammozeke, and right hand Branch, extend to the sources of the Nepisiquit, and wind their way among naked and almost inaccessible mountains of granite and trap rock. Bald mountain is 2,240 feet high, and is surrounded by several lofty peaks, but little inferior in altitude. It was my intention to have visited all these mountains, but the streams had become too dry for our canoes, one of our Indians had deserted, and the two that remained, refused to proceed any farther into the wilderness. Our provisions were reduced almost to the choice of fish caught in the stream, and our faces and limbs were swollen and painful from the incessant stings of the insects of the forest.

The whole surface of the country in the direction of the Tobique River, from its mouth to the distance of eighty miles northward, is capable of the highest degree of cultivation. The soil in general is equal to, and often surpasses the best kinds I have seen in the Provinces. I had supposed, from the accounts received from persons who had been engaged in procuring timber up the stream, that there were many places where the soil was unfit for cultivation; but such an opinion has arisen from the dreary appearance of the surface, where it has been overrun with fires. In every quarter we found a deep, rich, and strong soil.

Formerly there were immense groves of white and red pine in the vicinity of this stream, but most of these have been removed or destroyed by fires. At present there is comparatively but a small quantity of pine, spruce, cedar, and sometimes larch and hemlock, are abundant, and there are fine groves of beech, birch and maple.

Along the whole course of the stream, there are tracts of the best quality of intervalle, covered with elm and balsamic poplar, ash, alder, &c. Wild hay is abundant. Besides these, we found indigenous grape, wild plums, currants, gooseberries, mint, rheubarb, and onions, with all those plants which only flourish on the richest soils.

In descending the river, I counted seventy Islands, all composed of alluviums. The limestone, gypsum, and salt, are very valuable in this part of the Province, and they are so situated that they may be transported over a wide extent of Country at a trifling expense.

The river abounds in salmon during their season, and there is always an abundant supply of trout and whitefish in its waters. John Cahile, who lives near the mouth of the river, killed twelve barrels of salmon with a single spear last season; they were sold for £5 per barrel.

The river is navigable for canoes and tow-boats about one hundred miles from its mouth. There is only a portage of two miles between its head waters, and the Nepisiquit, and one of three miles to the Upsalquitch. The lands upon the Tobique remain ungranted.

Under a due consideration of all the advantages offered by the river and the soil of the intervalles and uplands, I am fully of the opinion that this tract of country, which embraces several millions of acres, is better adapted to the circumstances of respectable Emigrants and other settlers, than any other district I have seen in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia.

Much confusion has arisen in the names of places within the Province from the careless manner in which those names have been written and spoken. A great number of rivers and lakes still retain in some degree, the ancient names of the Melicete and Micmac Indians; but those names in many instances have been changed or

corrupted so that they are not now understood by the Aborigines themselves; and they are seldom written in the same manner by the inhabitants of the Province. Other names are those of the early French settlers; these also have become imperfect, and even English names are sometimes written improperly on Maps or other Public Documents. I have taken the liberty to insert the names of places on the Tobique, as used by the inhabitants, and opposite to them the Indian names.

Tobique,	Naa-cootke,
Otelloch,	Hotelle,
Otella,	Na-me-taaps-k-waac-sis,
Mamozekel,	Epe-ce-tus-sis,
Right-hand Branch,	Qua-quaps,
Serpentine River,	Wa-ca-sonis,
Lake,	Quispaam,
Trowsers Lake,	Nec-taa-waac-paac,
Sisson Branch,	Wa-caa-so-nee,
Little Tobique,	Caac-seo-sic ka-wa-ic,
Bald Mountain,	Es-coot-naak-a-witz,
Three Brooks,	Naa-saa-taa gan.

The present brief report has been drawn from extensive notes taken during my exploration of the Tobique, and I sincerely hope that it will prove satisfactory to Your Excellency, until time is afforded to make a full description of the country examined.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

A. GESNER, *Provincial Geologist.*

St. John, 5th October, 1842.

To His Excellency Sir WILLIAM MACBEAN GEORGE COLEBROOKE, K. H., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

In compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I have proceeded to explore the Restigouche River, with some of its tributaries, and the surrounding country, a full account of which will be contained in the general report on the settlement lands.

My son ascended the St. John to Madawasca, where he procured provisions, canoe and guides, to enable him to cross from the waters of that River, to those of the Restigouche. Having ascended Grand River, and one of its branches to the distance of twenty miles, the canoe was carried across a portage of three miles, and launched in the Waagan, a tributary of the Restigouche, one hundred and thirty miles from its mouth. A Canal might be opened at a moderate expense in this quarter, to connect the waters of the St. John with those of the Bay Chaleur.

I ascended the Restigouche and examined the country on each of its sides, and met the expedition from above a short distance below the mouth of the Upsalquitch. The difficulties of descending from the sources of the river at the present time of the year, are very considerable; as the season had been dry we were compelled to drag our canoes nine miles along the bed of the upper part of the stream, and so great is the difference of climate in the wilderness, that ice was frozen half an inch in thickness in the upper part of the stream on the 12th of September, while at the mouth of the river no frost had been seen, and luxuriant crops of wheat were in full harvest.

We were surprised to observe that the stream which has been generally understood to be the Restigouche, and is so called by the English Inhabitants, is only a branch of the Main River. The Main River on some of the Maps is called the Cadamkiswa which the Inhabitants have changed into Madam Kedgewick, and Tom Kedgewick. The Indian name in the Micmac language is Pee-tam kedge-wee. The southwesterly branch of the river above its junction with the larger stream is called by the Micmacs A-waan-jeet. The former stream is one third larger than the latter, and is eighty yards wide where it meets its chief tributary. It may be remarked here that where a river is forked, the Indians give a distinct name to each branch without reference to the name of the stream below.

One of the sources of the main Restigouche or Pe-tam-kedge-wee, is near Tamisquata Lake, another approaches the Metis Lake very nearly. If the main Restigouche be the boundary between the Provinces, it will be seen by reference to a good map, that a large tract of country will fall to New Brunswick, which has heretofore been considered to be on the Canada side; and it will also be seen that the outline of both Provinces will be very irregular and by no means convenient.

On the Peninsula separating the River St. Lawrence from the Bay Chaleur, there is a lofty mountainous ridge—a branch of a chain called the Alleghanies, which extend through the United States. It was up to this ridge that the American Government laid their claim before the question of Disputed Territory was settled, and until that period, the Restigouche formed a temporary boundary between Canada and New Brunswick; but since the happy termination of that dispute, the range of Mountains separating the Rivers that flow into the St. Lawrence, from those that flow into Bay Chaleur, the Restigouche, and St. John, will in my opinion, form the best divisional line between the Provinces.

Such a line would give to each Province all the rivers that flow and open into their respective districts, and would agree with the physical geography of the Country.