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breccia, as well as divided by a number of transverse faults, disposed in a south-west to north-east direction, into several step-like minor plateaus, which decrease in altitude from east to west. These fissures have been the "springs" of immense lava-streams, which now overlie the greater part of the peninsula. Of larger volcanoes there are but few; on the other hand, there are several "strings" of craters of no great elevation.* The ridge which constitutes the backbone of Snæfellsnes is both higher and steeper, but at the same time narrower, than that which traverses Reykjanes. At the extreme end of the peninsula there is a large ancient volcano, Snæfellsjökull (4710 feet), capped with glaciers. There has been no eruption during historic times, although the surrounding country exhibits abundant evidences of both ancient and modern outflows of lava. Some of the lavas have been scratched by the passage of ice over them, proving that the volcano was active prior to the Glacial epoch. All along the ridge there are craters from which lava has issued and flowed down upon the lower-lying tracts, as well as alkaline and carbonic acid springs.†

(*To be continued.*)

A TRIP ON THE THA-ANNE RIVER, HUDSON BAY.‡

By the Rev. J. LOFTHOUSE.

ON July 7, 1896, I left Churchill in a small Peterborough canoe, accompanied by two Chipewyan Indians, to explore the "Tha-anne" and Fish rivers, which empty themselves into Hudson bay about 100 miles north of Churchill. These rivers had never before been traversed by white men, and one of them, the Tha-anne, was but little known even to the Indians. The ice had cleared off early from the coast (I have been fast in ice on August 1), and I felt sure we should have no difficulty in reaching the "Tha-anne." The day was beautifully fine, and quite calm; but the mosquitoes were in myriads, and very fierce.

We paddled across Button bay on to North river, when, a fair wind springing up, we hoisted our sail and stood right across the Seal river bight, a terrible place for canoeing around the coast, as the tide runs out so very far, at times leaving one high and dry out of sight of land. We camped that night about 10 miles south of Long point, which we reached early next morning. This point is really a sand-ridge about 100 feet high, and forms the western side of the Churchill bight as Cape Churchill forms the eastern, each point being about 40 miles from the mouth of the river. After rounding the point, we were met

* "Vulkanerne paa Reykjanes i Island," in *Geolog. Fören. Forhandl.* (Stockholm), iii. pp. 148-177.

† 'Geologiske Iagttagelser paa Snæfellsnes og i Omegnen of Faxebugten i Island' (Stockholm, 1891), 98 pp.

‡ Map, p. 336.

by a strong head wind, and obliged to camp down in the inlet, where we were dreadfully tormented by mosquitoes.

Next day we passed Egg island (just a stony reef a few feet above high-water mark, and where hundreds of eider ducks come to breed, hence its name), and made our way down the inlet towards the Tha-anne. Here we were caught by a severe thunderstorm, and were in danger of being swamped, but were rewarded by the most magnificent rainbow, the like of which I never saw before. There were seven distinct bows, all most clearly defined, and touching the horizon, whilst all within was black as the darkest night. We were obliged to spend the night on a point of land where neither water nor wood was to be found.

Early next morning we pressed on, after replenishing our larder by two fat deer which we shot, and late that evening got to the mouth of the "Tha-anne," where we spent the night. The shore here is very low and flat, and at low water nothing is to be seen but miles of mud flats with large boulders standing up on every hand. A more dangerous place for a boat coming in under a strong breeze could not be met anywhere, and with a gale from sea it would mean certain destruction, for one could not miss the stones. Next morning we got into the main channel, but only at high tide could even a small boat get up it. It is hard to define the mouth of the river, the banks being so low. On a small island we gathered about 300 eider duck's eggs; though rather far gone, my Indians seemed greatly to enjoy them. During the day we made our way up the river, past the Fish river, which empties into the Tha-anne about 10 miles from the coast. Here the banks, composed of sand and gravel, rise some 12 feet. Not a tree was to be seen, and going up the river we saw not the slightest sign of any driftwood, so we had to depend on the moss for boiling our tea-kettle. About 5 miles above the Fish river we came to the first rapid. Here the river is hemmed in between two rocks, about 30 yards apart, and we had to make a portage of some 300 yards. The rocks are sandstone and granite, and just seem to crop out here, running almost due north. For some 3 miles above this rapid there is a good stretch of water, and then we come to a series of heavy rapids, stretching some 10 or 15 miles. Over the greater part of these we had to portage everything. There is a very heavy rush of water, up or down, which even a boat could not pass. The ground here rises to some 50 feet, and is composed of sand-dunes, whilst away from the river seems one vast mossy plain with no sign of wood at all.

At the head of these rapids we came to the first lake, about 12 miles wide. Crossing this in a westerly direction, we found the channel, up which we went against a very strong current, but no rapids. Here we came upon the first signs of trees, small stunted willows; but they were very pleasant to see after the barren country from the coast, and we

were glad to get a fire. Next day we made our way mostly up heavy rapids, where the ice was still piled high on the banks, and we had difficulty in getting past some of it.

After another hard day's work in the rapids, we got into the lake district, where the Fish and Tha-anne rivers divide. Here the land rises to the height of some 200 feet, and the country is one network of lakes, with a few stunted pines here and there, but as a rule bare, bleak, and barren as possible. On Sunday, July 19, after working round the north shore of a small lake, and up a short but very rapid river, we came into a long narrow lake about 15 miles east and west. Thence by a narrow channel we passed into "Thao-lintoa," or Pipestone lake. This is fully 20 miles from east to west, and about half that from north to south. After crossing this, we got into the upper Tha-anne, where we found a very swift current, but no rapids. Here the banks are high on both sides, just sand-ridges with no sign of rock. Up this we worked for two days. The north side was all barren land, whilst away to the south were a few stunted pine woods. The river takes a very sudden turn to the east, and a short swift rapid of about a mile took us into Tha-anne lake. This lake is fully 60 miles long, but very narrow in the centre, with bare, bleak hills on the north; but on the west and south-west there seems to be a little timber. The upper end of the lake was packed with ice, and we had to portage across a narrow neck of land to avoid it. We struck away to the north-west, where we hoped to meet with either Indians or Eskimo. We found some old tents, but no signs of life. The country is as bleak and desolate as one could well imagine, with no signs of wood anywhere. A small river here enters the lake, and my Indians said we were within about three days of the Kazan river and Tath-kyed lake.

On July 23 we turned our faces homeward, and in a few hours, with a strong fair wind, crossed the largest reach of the lake. All the ice had drifted away south, and soon we entered the upper Tha-anne river. Down this we ran at a great rate, and in thirteen hours covered what had taken four days in going up. On Saturday, July 25, leaving the Tha-anne river at Sucho-lintoa lake, we crossed by a series of short portages into the Fish river. This is a much better river to navigate than the Tha-anne, and until we got to within 20 miles of the coast we only made one short portage. After that the river divides into two channels, and the water becomes very shallow. We took the northern one, and ran down at a great rate, often with only a few inches of water under our canoe. I quite expected we should come to grief, and was really glad when we entered the Tha-anne, where we had plenty of water. We reached the coast at the mouth of the Tha-anne in just half the time it had taken us to go up, and after a good run along the coast, reached Churchill in safety on our twenty-fifth day out.

The country through which we passed is a very wild and dreary

one, and can never be of much use except for hunting. There seems to be hardly any signs of minerals, though the Eskimo and Indians both say there are quantities of "mica" away to the north-east of Thao-lintoa lake. The timber is very scanty, and there seems to be hardly any on the north side of the Tha-anne river. All the rock seems to be granitic sandstone, and crops out here and there, all running down to the coast, where it comes out about 50 miles south of Marble island.

TASMAN'S LIFE AND VOYAGES—REVIEW.*

By EDWARD HEAWOOD, M.A.

IN view of the important services to geographical discovery rendered by the great Dutch navigator Tasman, it is at first sight surprising that so long a time should have been allowed to elapse before the publication of a complete critical account of his life and labours. For two centuries after his death the published material was restricted to brief abstracts of the chief events of the voyages, and not until 1854-60 was the journal of the most important voyage—that of 1642-43, which resulted in the discovery of Tasmania and New Zealand—made generally accessible by the version of Jacob Swart in the *Verhandelingen en Berigten betrekkelijk het Zeevesen*, which, however, has since proved in many ways inaccurate. This paucity of published material is explained by the fact that most of the documents by which light could be thrown on the subject remained buried in the Dutch Colonial Archives, which have been systematically examined only within the last half-century. During that time material has been steadily accumulating, thanks to the labours of Dutch scholars; but the results have not hitherto been known as they deserve to be in other countries. Particularly welcome, therefore, is the recent publication, by the well-known firm of F. Muller of Amsterdam, under the editorship of Prof. J. E. Heeres, of a facsimile reproduction of Tasman's original journal, with all its maps and drawings, accompanied by an English translation, and a critical account by the editor of the navigator's life and labours—the whole forming a folio volume of over four hundred pages. Although we believe that other scholars—Mr. Coote in this country, and Prince Roland Bonaparte in France—have been for some time working at the same subject, it is in every way fitting that the first satisfactory account of the great navigator's work should have been prepared by one of his countrymen, who, from his former position as Conservator of Colonial Archives at the Hague, is thoroughly qualified for the task he has undertaken.

As the reproduction of Tasman's journal forms the *raison d'être* of

* 'Abel Janszoon Tasman's Journal of his Discovery of Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand in 1642, with Documents relating to his Exploration of Australia in 1644.' Edited by J. E. Heeres. Amsterdam: F. Muller & Co. 1898.



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