

and spiræa; its length was four miles. The soil was composed of a shallow, black, sandy, vegetable earth.

On their route they passed three small prairies, one of which was about ten acres in extent, and lay on the northwest side of a lake: the lake, called Sachal by the Indians, was examined, and found to be one and a half miles in length, and three-fourths of a mile in breadth. It is surrounded on all sides by willow and alders; the soil about it was a light brown sandy loam; the forest extends down to the water, which is of a dark brown colour, as if tinged with vegetable matter; this, however, was not the case, for in taking the water up in a glass, it was found pure and crystal-like.

A line of soundings was taken across the lake, by which five and a quarter fathoms was found to be the greatest depth. It was said to abound in fish, but they did not succeed in taking any. In the lake were quantities of yellow lilies (*Nuphar lutea*), pond-weed (*Potamogeton*) of two species, and a water-lily (*Nymphæa*.)

Mr. Eld was told that there was another lake to the northeast, and set out with Mr. Colvocoressis, to visit it. The supposed lake was reached after a walk of five miles over the same kind of country, and proved to be only a pond, about two hundred yards in diameter, quite shallow, and covered, like the former, with water-lilies.

After their return they broke up the encampment, and embarking in their canoes on Lake Sachal, passed to its southern end, where they entered the river of the same name. This appeared at first almost impassable, for it was for four miles almost choked up with *Sparganiums*, *Nuphars*, &c., so that it was difficult to pass even with the small canoe. Its breadth was from twenty to sixty feet, and it was from three to twelve feet deep. The turns were sometimes so short, that the large canoe would be in contact with the thickets on the banks at both ends, and it required much force to drag her along, by pulling by the branches, and caused great labour in cutting their way. They also unfortunately lost their hatchet, which afterwards proved a serious mishap.

They were obliged to continue their course down the river until nine o'clock at night, before they could find any place to encamp, on account of the bog and jungle. At that hour they came to a small green spot, occupied by a party of Indians. Here Mr. Eld obtained some altitudes of the north star for latitude; and the next day, being compelled to make a portage of two miles to avoid an impassable part of the river, he employed himself, during the time it was making, in getting a full set of equal altitudes. By 6 p. m. they had carried every thing across and embarked; but the river was full of sand-bars, shallow