

Notes on the
Discovery of the
North-west

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Introductory Paragraph. H.B. & present indexes of
Historical Resumé and explorers & ^{regions, probably political} names

General phys. geog & description of County
Climate. Climate cycles, Grass, Lycopods, trees
L. Lyons or following chapters XI, XII
of B. Com report. work in incidents
by travel etc.

Peace R. County, general of trip etc.

Great N. County beyond. slight sketch.

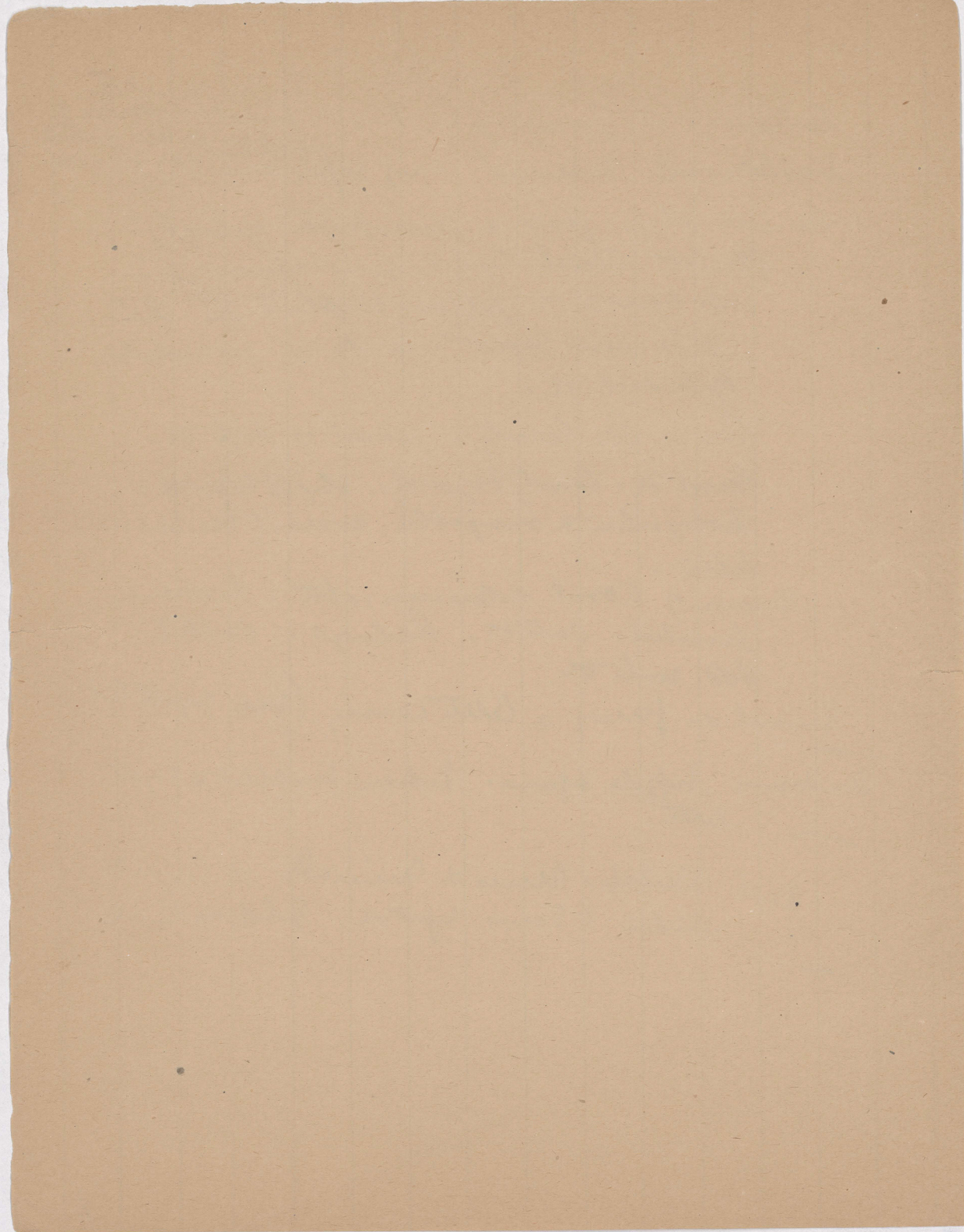
Wongubun a notable river. (see numerous
letters.)

Means of travel & communication. Indian
population. Customs. Religion. Outlets.
H.B. route etc

General or family a letter writing. (see separate letters)

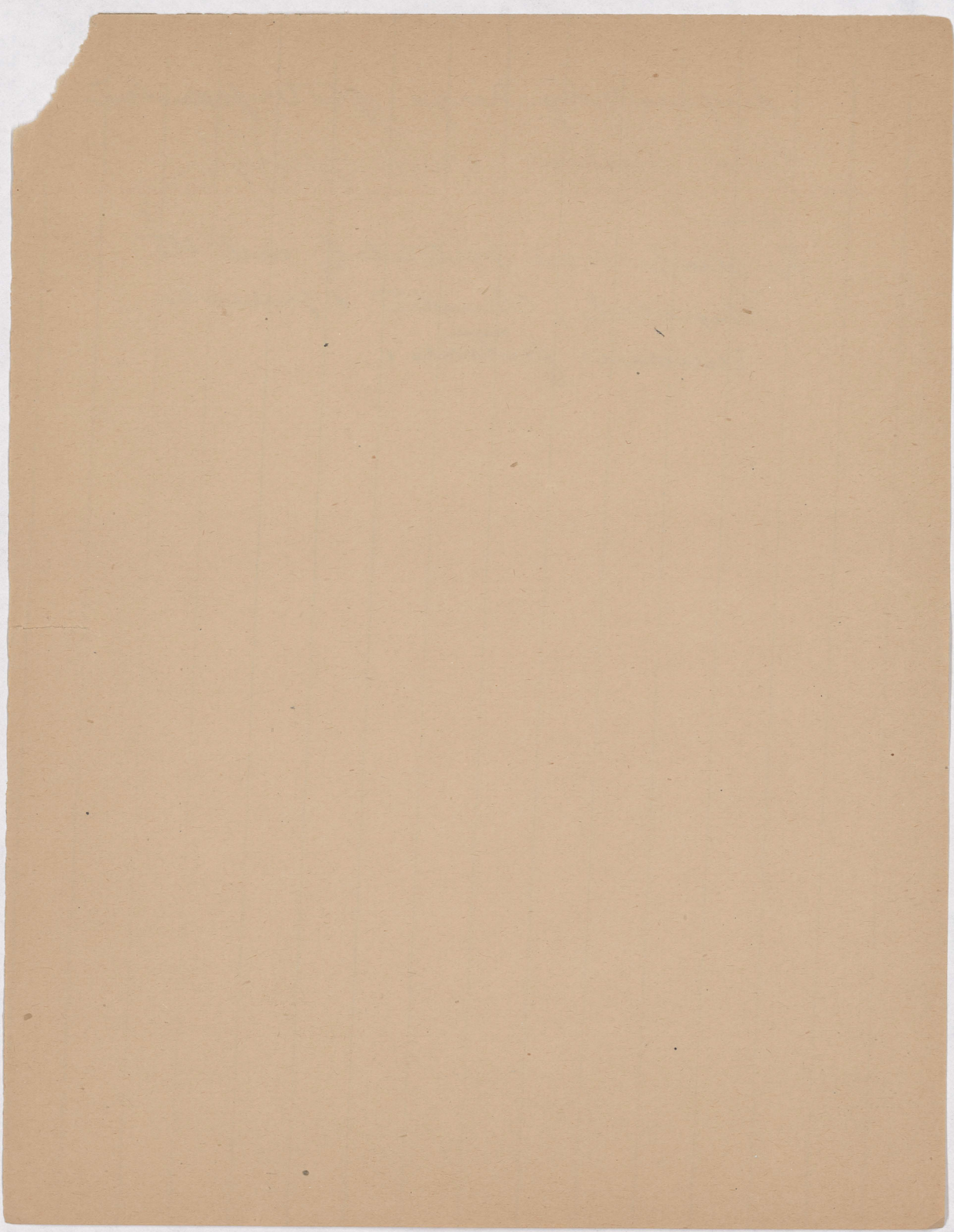
Indians, buffalo & game. Indian pamphlet & report
letters

Soil Sketch. Mines & Minerals B. Com report
introduction to same report etc, Gold & Coal.



papers by groups after introduction
land division & wide groups.

To deal more particularly with the
Physical, climatic & general
economic features.

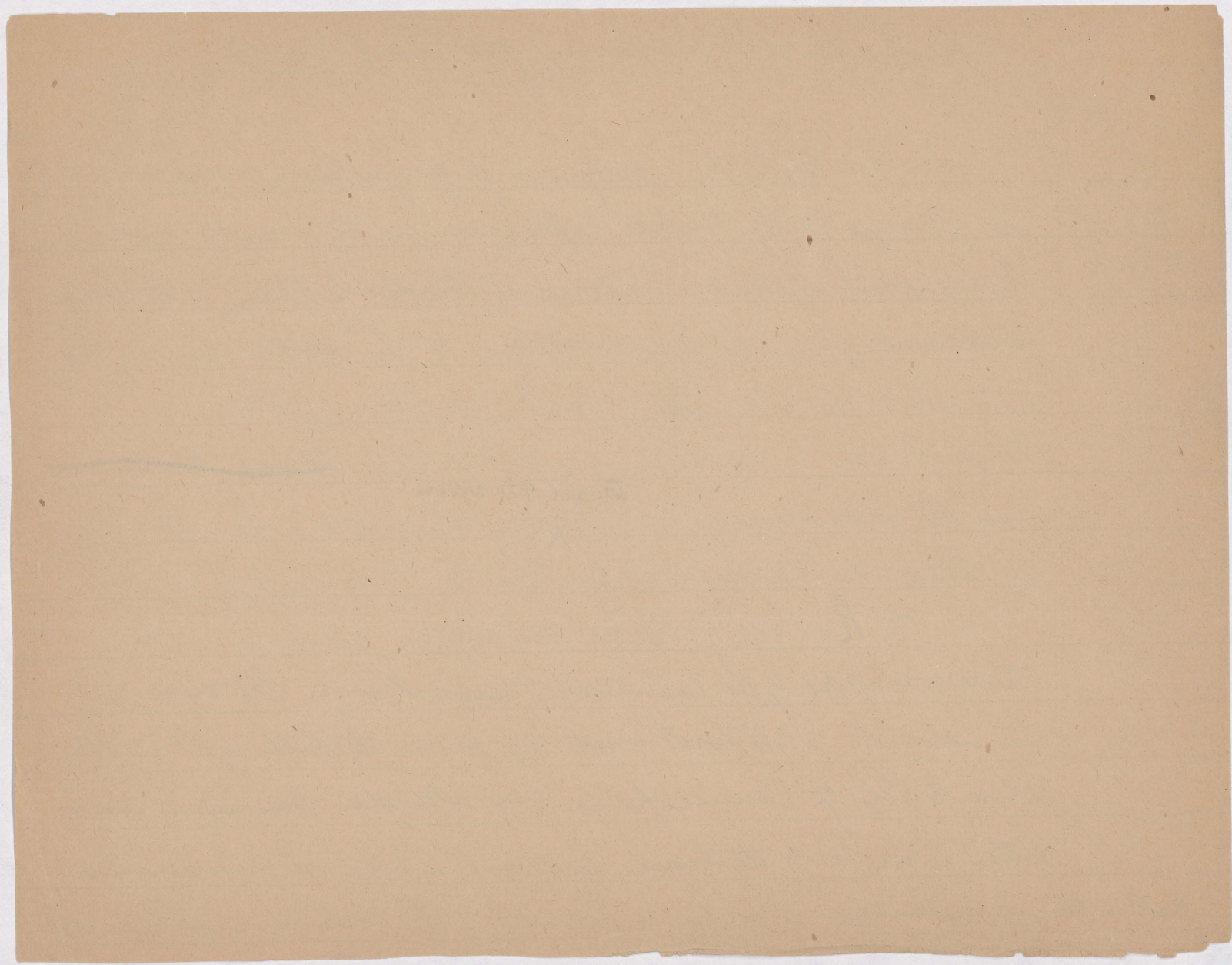


Notes on the Discovery of the North-west-

Many Arctic
Countroyages
excluded.

The history of the progress of geographical discovery, & the journeys of the earlier explorers in the vast region lying west of Lake Superior & Hudson's Bay, & spreading southward from the Arctic Ocean to the northern boundary of the United States, ^{is} ~~is~~ of quite peculiar interest.

The first steps in the advance of exploration ~~toward this region~~ ^{toward this region} from the older parts of Canada are well known. In 1672 Jolliet & Marquette reached the Mississippi River. In 1680 the Recollet, Louis Hennepin, travelling to the Mississippi by the same route, embarked on that river, & ascended it to the north-west as far as the Falls of St Anthony, where the City of Minneapolis now stands. Hennepin was taken prisoner by the Sioux Indians & held for some months, meeting there ~~he met here~~ a certain Courleur de Bois named Daniel



Delhut, who had already traversed part of this country,
but whose journals, like those of so many others of his class,
are unwritten. (Two years later La Salle descended the
Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico) In 1727 a Canadian

Charlevoix

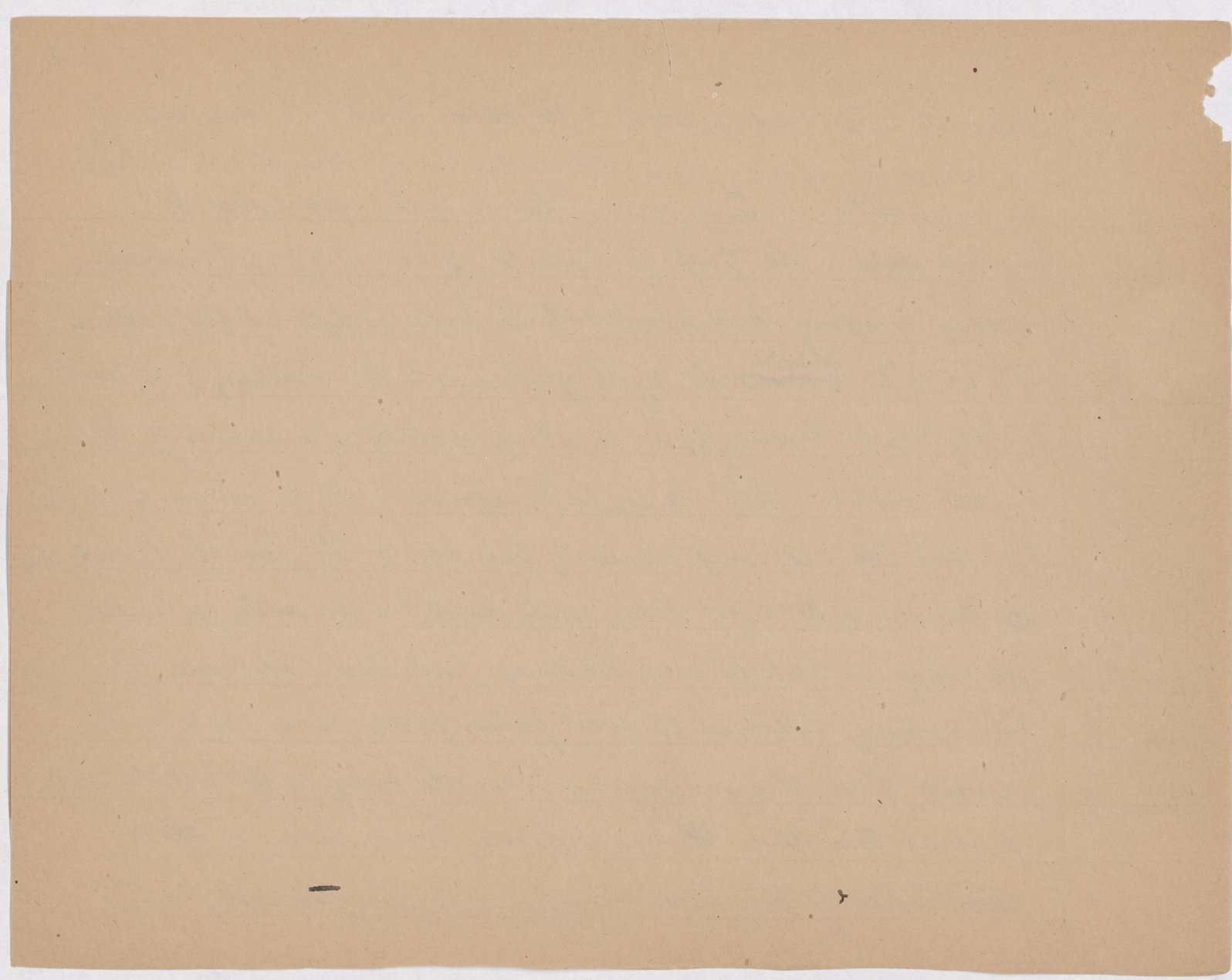
On the maps accompanying Charlevoix' History of New France,
Lac Ourinipegou (Winnipeg) & Lac des Assiniboels
(Manitoba Lake) appear, vaguely & quite inaccurately placed
from report. Writing in ¹⁷²¹ however, Charlevoix states
that he had seen a Frenchman who had visited the
Lac des Assiniboels. This man was doubtless a Coureur
de bois, ^{it is probable} & ~~shows~~ that these traders were generally in advance
of the accredited discoverers whose journals were committed
to paper.

& about this time Winnipegosis, Manitoba & ~~the~~ the
other lakes of this great group were discovered, & the

Delhut, who had already traversed part of this country,
 but whose journals, like those of so many others of his class,
 are unwritten. (Two years later La Salle descended the
 Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico) In 1727 a Canadian
 trading company had a post on the Mississippi at Lake Pepin.

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In 1731 to ~~secure~~ ^{assure} the rights of France to the territory to the north-
 west, Count Maurepas Secretary of State & Minister of Colonies
 under Louis XV, sent Veranmes de la Verandrye in
 that direction. Accompanied by his son & the Jesuit Missionary,
 He discovered the Red River of the North & the valley of Lake
 Winnipeg & established trading posts there. The sons of
 Verandrye continued the work of their father, & in 1748 had
 pushed their discoveries as far as the valley of the Saskatchewan,
 & about this time Winnipegosis, Manitoba & ~~the~~ the
 other lakes of this great group were discovered, & the



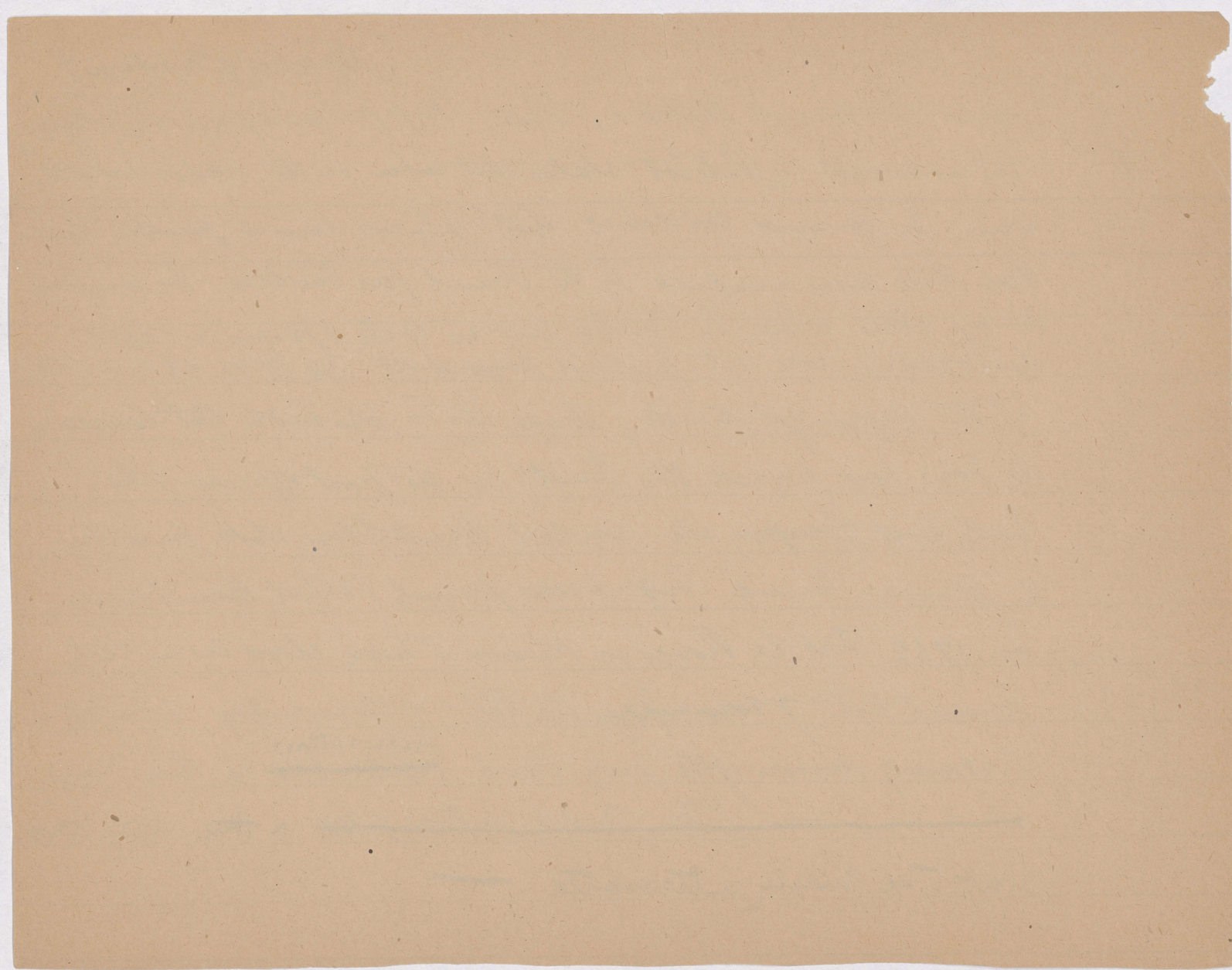
(Nipawee of Mackenzie)³

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Forts of Grand Rapid, Pas, Nippewing & La Carne
established. Petitot states that when on the upper Saskatchewan
was to find evidence that places much further west
than there were occupied by the French fur traders. He went as
among other Lac la Piche, but is of the opinion that
discoveries were not pushed beyond the 54th or at least the
53th degree of latitude, though it is probable that Coureurs
de bois had passed this limit, as the first officers of the
North West Company who reached Great Slave Lake found there
a franco-timé half-breed family called Beaulieu.

In 1762 Fort la Rouge is known to have stood near the
present site of ~~Winnipeg~~ the City of Winnipeg, but little is
certainly known of the early French ^{explorations} ~~discoveries~~ in this region,
~~which was not to be unduly interrupted & then were now~~
about to be unduly interrupted. —

? of acc't in
Del. des
Journals
see Bayley's
paper.



In 1763 the Cession of Canada to the English terminated
 the French pursuit & exploration of the North western Country,
 even the visionary enterprises ceased, & for a ~~number of~~ ^{some}
 years the western ramifications of the ^{Canadian} fur trade were completely
 paralysed; the nations being to procure such European articles as
 they required from the ~~post~~ ^{posts} by before established by ~~the Hudson's~~
~~Bay Company~~ on Hudson's Bay by the Company of that name.
 About 1766 the fur trade began again to extend west of
 Michilimackinac, the traders finding, however, in addition
 to the obstacles of nature difficulties of travel an additional
 obstacle in the ^{toward the English} hostility, which had been cultivated among the
 Indians by the French ~~toward them~~ In this year ~~a post~~ ^{a post}
 was established on the Kaministiquia River, beyond the
 west end of Lake Superior - a year or two afterwards ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{two} ~~two~~ ^{posts} ~~posts~~

see map page on the same subject

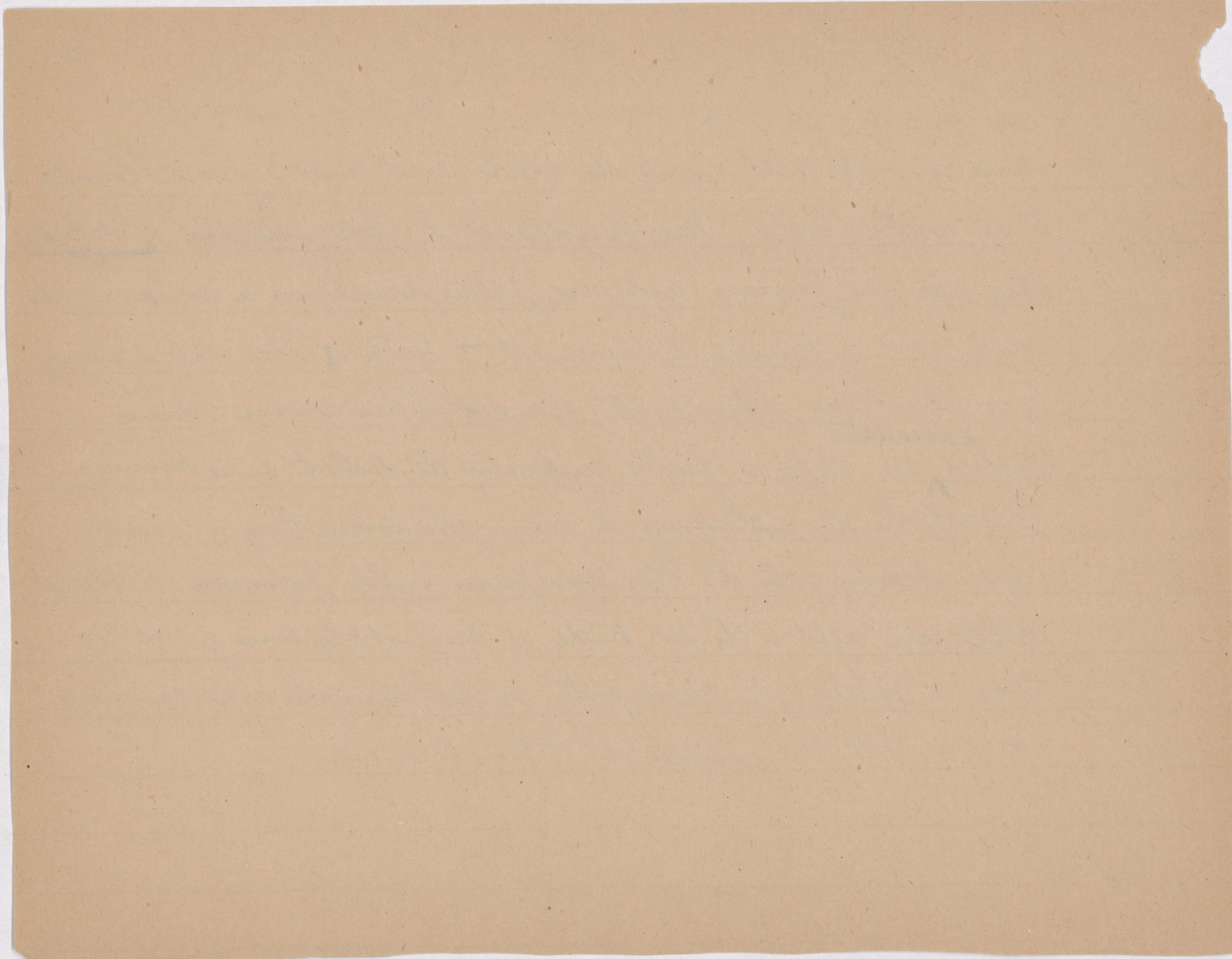
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Curry with four canoes penetrated as far as Cedar Lake
 on the lower part of the Saskatchewan, where had been Fort
 Bourbon of the French, & returned the following spring with a rich
 cargo of furs. James Finlay, following him shortly after,
 reached a place called Nipawee on the Saskatchewan in ~~Canada~~
 on the ~~104th~~ ^{104th} meridian, which ~~was~~ ^(as said to have) been the furthest ^{regular} French
~~establishment~~. ~~It is stated that fur traders had at this~~

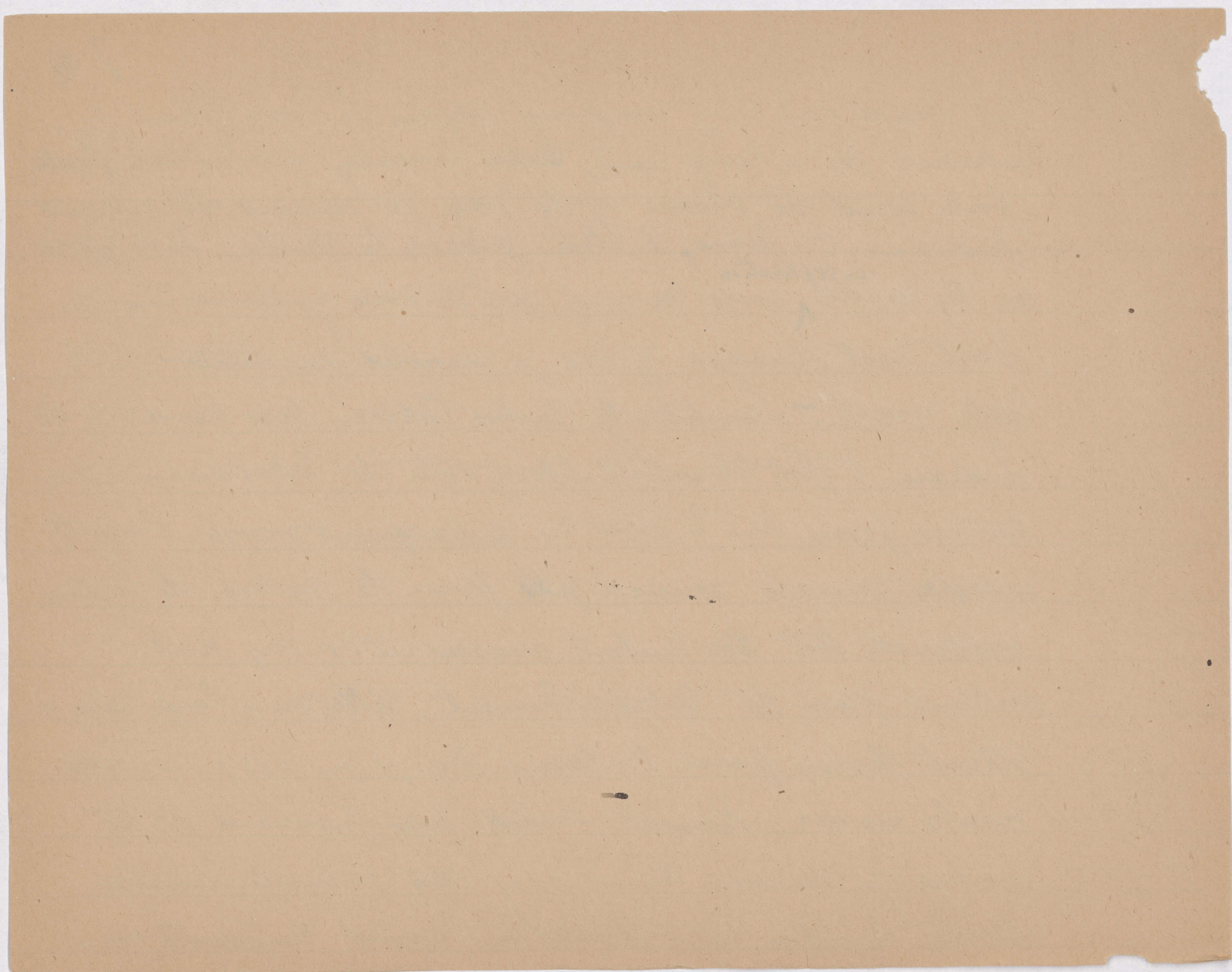
~~place~~ place by the Canadian traders when they subsequently
 visited it this place found evidence that the French
 had not only cultivated the ground ~~in~~, but used
 wheels & vehicles.

1763-1769

The Company of New France, in 1628, was by its Charter invested with nearly the whole north west, from Florida to the arctic Circle, Newfoundland to Lake Superior & westward. They did not, however, make use of their privileges in so far as the Colony now in question is concerned. — With a liberality scarcely less startling, Charles II, granted to his cousin Prince Rupert ^{& associates} in 1670 a charter embracing the district since known as Rupert's Land, including the shores of Hudson's Bay & all the region draining into it. They were given entire Dominion of the Soil, exclusive right to the fur trade, & monopoly even of the Chase & fishery, to erect forts, make reprisals & declare peace or war with any people not Christian. —



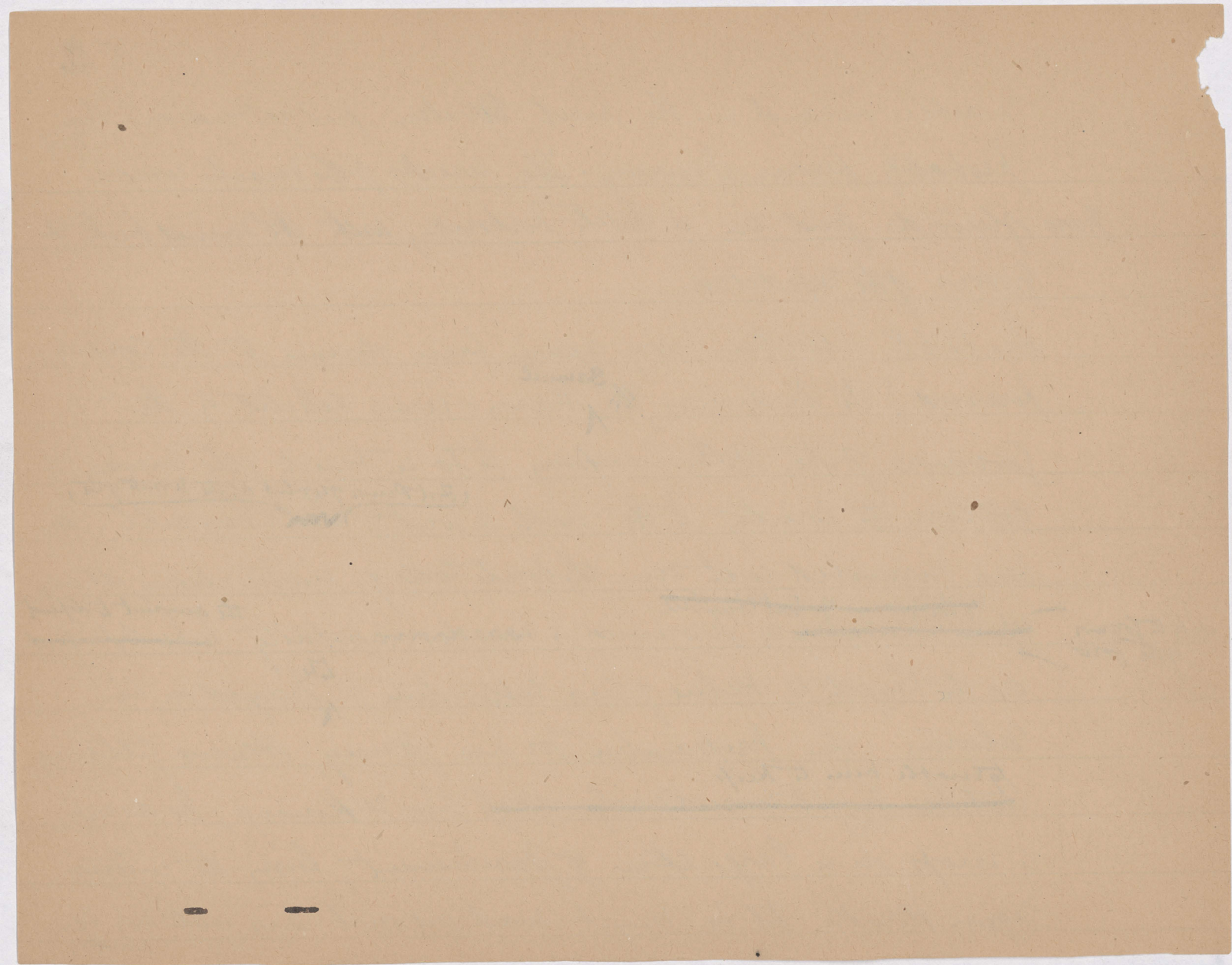
The Hudson's Bay Company appear to have been
solicited for a long time, ~~and~~ were very desirous to establish ~~posts~~
posts round the shores of the bay, & induce the inland
Indians to journey to these places to trade. Such efforts
as they made ^{in exploration} were making with the view of discovering a
north west passage by sea, & resulted in little or
little result. - Samples of native Copper were brought by the
Indians to Fort Churchill shortly after its establishment in
1715, & from time to time in subsequent years. From the
imperfect accounts received ~~from~~ from the natives the traders
supposed that this metal occurred at no very great
distance from the establishment, either on a large river or
strait opening from Hudson's Bay, & in 1819 two little
barks under Knight sailed from Foveasend for the
purpose of discovery, this & very other valuable minerals.
All the members of this expedition perished miserably on



Warble Island in the North Western part of Hudson's Bay,
probably from Scirogy. The wrecks of the vessels were
now upwards of 100 in a little distance, with the ruined huts &
graves of the expedition.

In 1768 Attention being again been drawn to the Copper
found by the Indians, ^{Samuel} Hearne was selected by the
Governors of the H.B. Company to go in search of the mines &
explore the country to the North & West of ~~the~~ ^{Fort Prince of Wales at the mouth of the} Churchill. He
was furnished with an elaborate code of instructions drawn
~~up by the former~~ ^{by the former of Fort Churchill} & promised a handsome gratuity ^{the amount to depend} ~~to be depended~~
on the length & value of his exploration & ^{to be} ~~paid~~ on his
return. In preparation for his journey, Hearne tells us
^{to enable him to keep} ~~that he might see easily~~ keep his reckoning, he drew
a map on a large skin of parchment, leaving the interior
regions blank that he might work out on it his route as he
went.

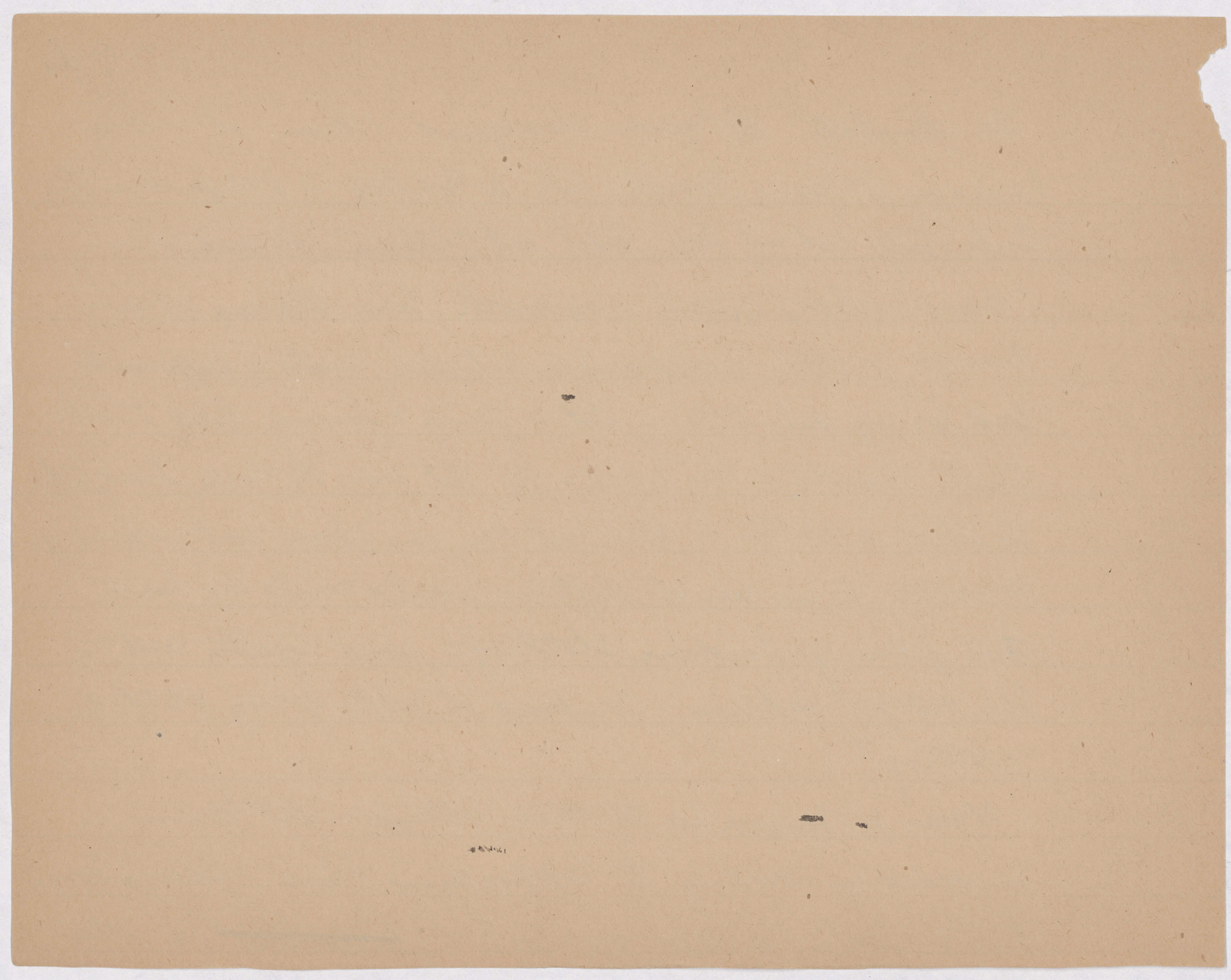
up by the former
of the fort



To penetrate the region assigned I think it was necessary to live & travel like a native, & to depend on the country itself not only for food but clothing. He writes. —

"Ammunition, useful iron-work, some tobacco, a few knives, & other indispensable articles, make a sufficient load for any one to carry that is going a journey lasting about twenty months, or two years. As that was the case, I only took the shirt & clothes I then had on, one spare coat, a pair of drawers, & as much cloth as would make me two or three pairs of Indian stockings, which together with a blanket for bedding, composed the whole of my stock of clothing."

It was not however till the third attempt that Hearne succeeded in reaching the Coppermine River. Taking leave of the Governor of Prince of Wales Fort, ~~"Charlottetown"~~ & others.



friends on November 6th 1769, Hearne set out
 on his adventure under a Salute of seven cannon. His
 party included two Europeans, ^{besides himself} but he found before long that
 these being but common men, were despised ^{& rejected} by the Indians, so
 much so that he was ~~rather~~ apprehensive that they might
 starve altogether & was glad eventually to bring them back
 to the fort alive. He had besides two "baveguard" or southern
 Indians (Crees or Chepeways) & six or eight northern
 Indians ^(Chepeways) with part of their families, under a chief called
 Chawchinahaw. It was intended to travel to the
 Athabasca country & then to meet a chief, known to the
 traders, ~~called~~ named Matonabee, who it was supposed
 would consent to guide ^{Hearne} ~~the party~~ to the Coppermine. The
 party travelled north westward, drawing their baggage after
 them on sledges, across the barren grounds, an uninvited

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West of County Agny to the north of the wooded region between
Hudson's Bay & the Mackenzie; rocky without being
unbearable, but often covered with a peaty soil producing
mosses & low growing plants, but without a shrub large
enough to repair a broken stage or make a snow-shoe path.
One of the most desolate regions on the face of the ~~world~~ ^{Earth}.

The weather was intensely cold & the party were soon reduced to
straits for want of food, & were obliged to turn into the edge of
the wooded country, where they found tracks of deer, but were only
able to kill a few partridges. Hearn soon began to discover,
too, that Chawchinahaw had not the prosperity of the
expedition at heart. He succeeded to point the difficulties
they were likely to meet in the ~~most~~ ^(and hunted at returning) stringent colours, but finding
this ineffectual he tried to starve the Europeans & Southern
Indians by preventing them from getting their share of the game.

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1891

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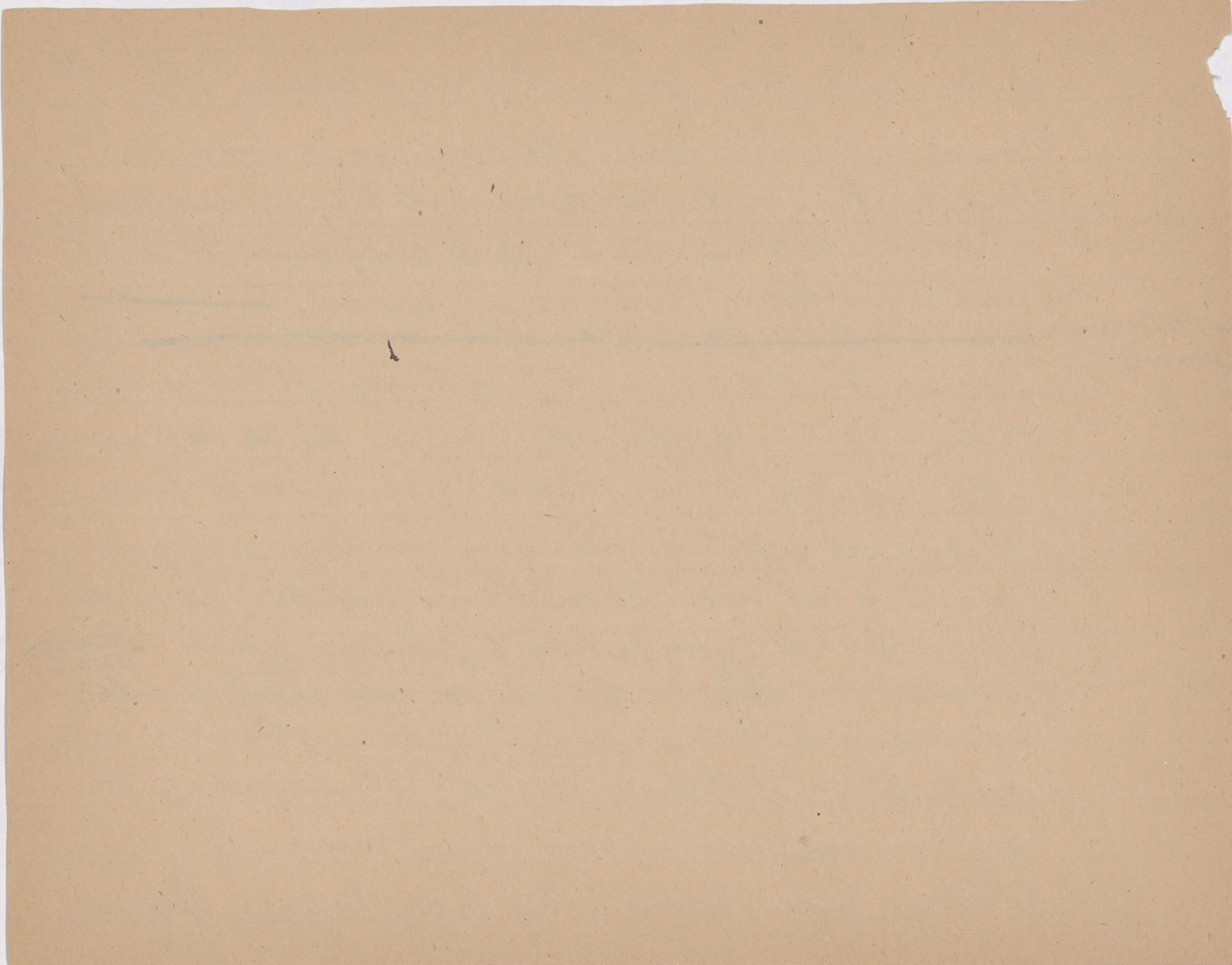
12th
killed. Finally he deserted, taking with him all the
winter Indians, making, ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~Heave~~ says, the woods
ring with their laughter as they went away. For five days before
this time Heave & his companions had not been able to
kill partridges enough to make half a bird daily for each,
which ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~Heave~~ ^{as} they had ^{volley} else ^{volves} to
be fall back on, was ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~Heave~~ ^{as} says, in reality next to
volley. Scarcely indeed they had not been able to get a
single mouth full. They were now nearly two hundred.
Went from Fort Churchill, reduced by hunger & fatigue, but
as Heave writes, "Our situation at that time, though very
alarming, would not permit us to spend much time in
reflection". They loaded their sledges, after ~~making~~ ^{abandoning} some of
the goods, & on the 11th of December regained
Prince of Wales Fort, weakened & disappointed.

Remnant

Hearne's second journey began on the 23rd of February 1770, when, as he graciously remarks the snow was so deep on the Ramparts of Plover's Fort that most of the Cannons were covered, so that no Salute was fired. Till the 21st of March for about a month he travelled on, making small marches, ~~but, sometimes, was such that could be used, often less than required.~~

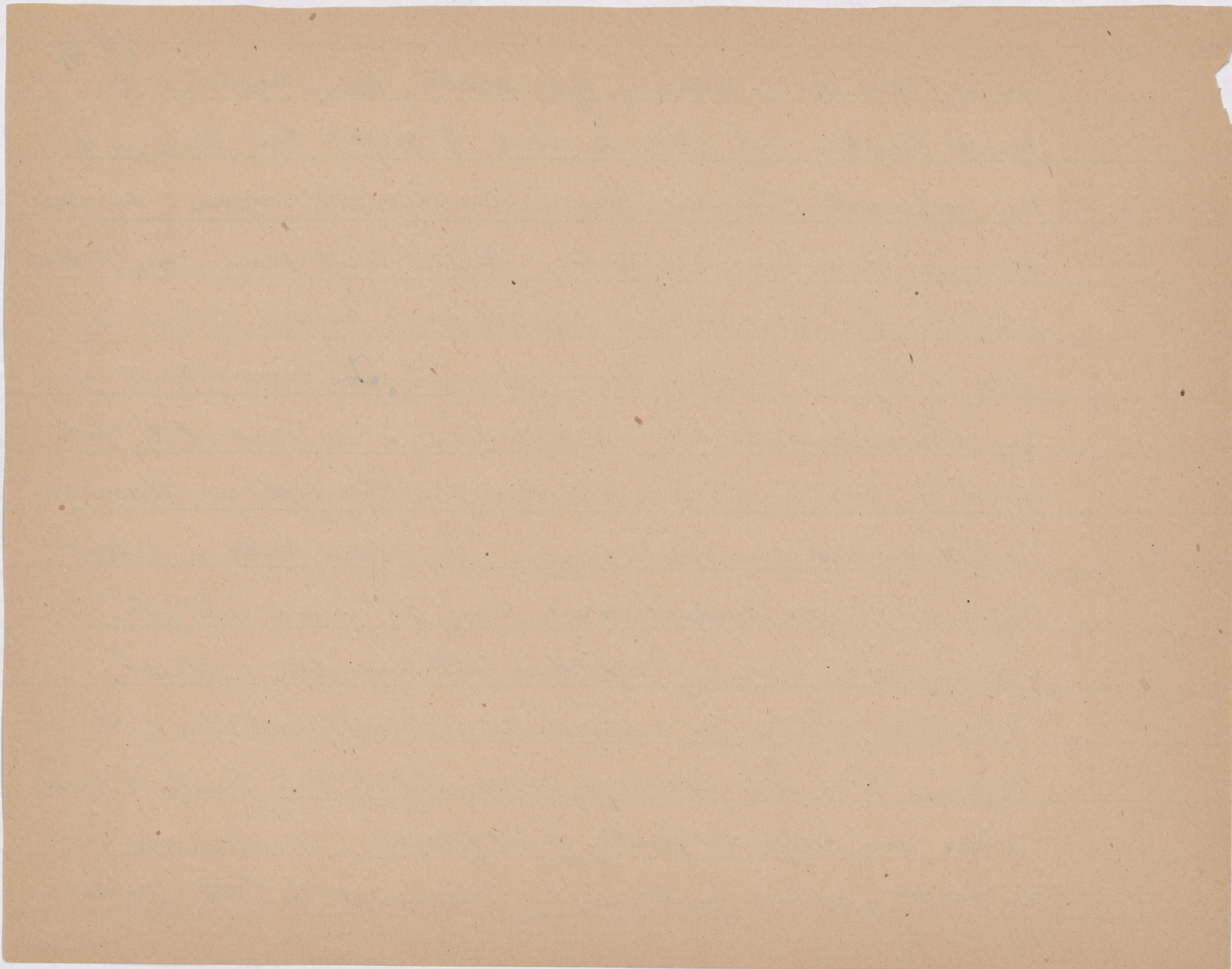
of often suffering from hunger.

His guides then proposed, as they found themselves at a place where abundance of fish could be procured, to remain there till the season began to fly, saying that it was too cold to venture out in the barren grounds & that if the edge of the woods was followed it would lead them too far west. To this Hearne consented, but on the first of April the frost failing, the party was reduced to ^{starving} ~~starving~~ for some days, ^{the} ~~there~~ on the banks they killed some deer, they went to the spot, & partly a gluttony followed. Worried further, they were shortly again reduced to extremity, but on the 13 of May some geese & swans began to arrive. Being now on the barren grounds, Hearne & his Indian Indians suffered



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And from the inclemency of the weather, having neglected to
provide themselves with poles on which to stretch their tents, & it
being impossible to procure them in this desolate region. On one
occasion, having been long fasting, several men & dogs were killed,
but before they were could be collected for the purpose of making a
fire, a shower rendered this impossible. They were obliged, as on
many other occasions to "eat" the flesh raw, & remained at the spot
without being able to make a fire since the other had been almost
entirely destroyed in this manner. "For record sake in detail
each day's fare ~~writes~~ Hearne since the commencement of the
fast," writes Hearne, "would be little more than a dull
repetition of the same occurrences. A sufficient idea of it may
be given in a few words, by observing that it may justly be said
to have been either all fasting, or all famine: sometimes we had
too much, seldom just enough, frequently too little, & often



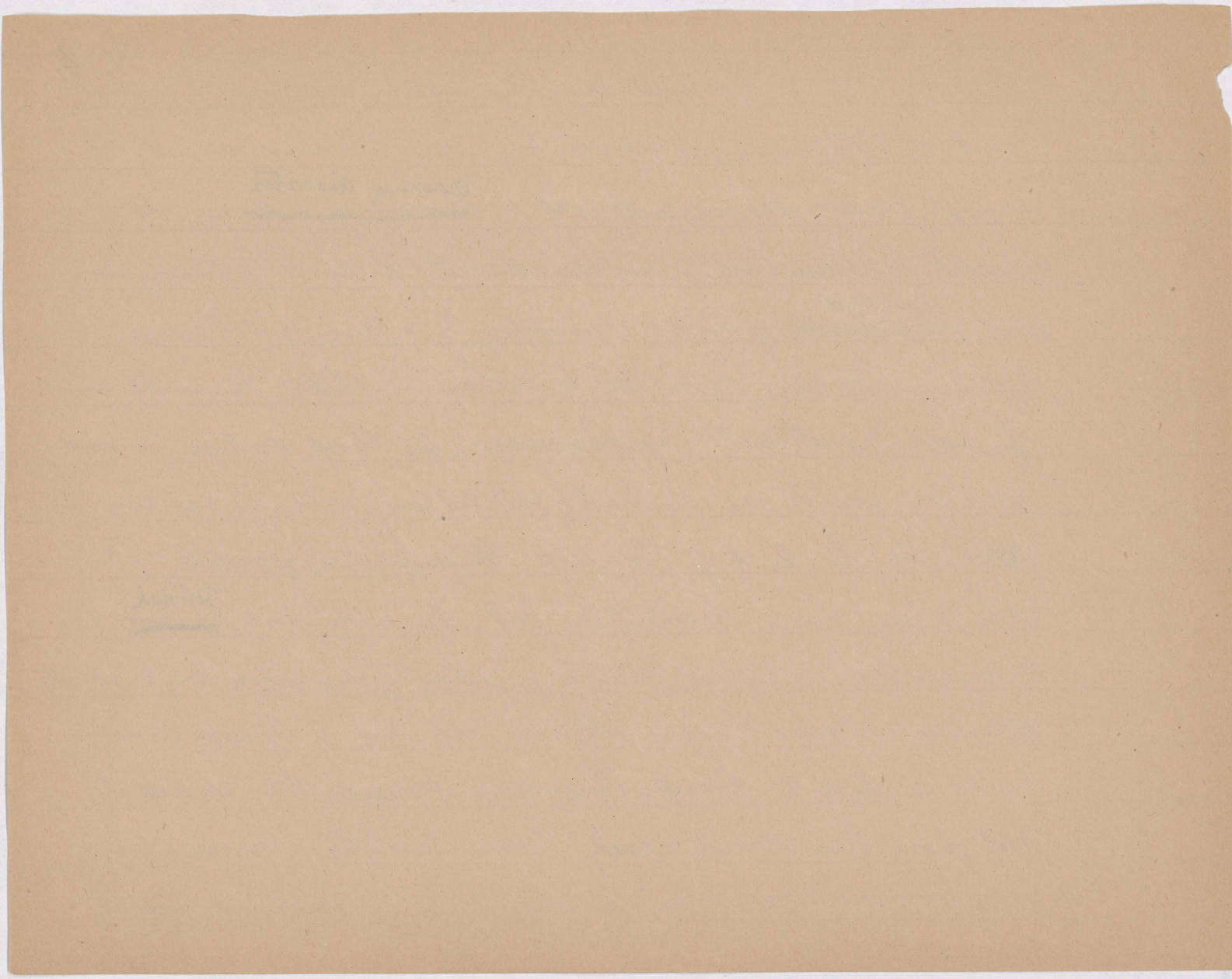
15. The
none at all. It will be only necessary to say that we have
fasted very long two whole days & nights; twice upwards of
three days; & once, while at Ste-tham-nee, near seven days,
during which we fasted not a mouthful of anything, except a few
Cranberries; water, scraps of gold leather, & burnt bones. On these
pressing occasions I have frequently seen the Indians examine
their wardrobe, which consisted chiefly of skin clothing, &
consider what part could best be spared; sometimes a piece of
an old half-worn deer skin, & at others a pair of old shoes,
p. 33 / were sacrificed to alleviate extreme hunger."

On the 7th of June, the snow being very sore, they threw
away their snow-shoes ^{and sleds} & took their packs on their backs &
shouldered their packs. On June 13 they reached Cuthawhadaga
& was joined soon after by so many parties of Indians that the
camping numbered nearly seven hundred in all. The general
war again began to show signs of a disunion.

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to go further, & proposed wintering before endeavoring to
reach the Coppermine, the season being now too far advanced. On
August 22th Hearne met with a ~~curious~~ ^{grievous disaster} in the
accidental destruction of his quadrant, & on the following day
was ~~plundered~~ ^{robbed} of nearly everything by a party of strange
Indians. He then determined to retreat his steps, & on the 20th
of next month met Matonabbee, the Chief of whom he had
seen on search in his first expedition, also on his way to the
port. On the 21st of November the party ~~was~~ ^{finished} ~~perished~~ when
within a few days word of the port, the party ~~was~~ ^{finished} ~~perished~~ in
a snow storm & violent gale, working from before day break till
after ten o'clock at night before they could find a clump of willow
bushes in which to camp. Four days afterwards they reached the
port, having been absent nearly nine months, unsuccessful,
but not without having achieved important geographical results.



17th

in mind of the country traversed by Hearne has not since been
visited by civilized man, & the Lakes & rivers shall appear on
our maps as he traced them.

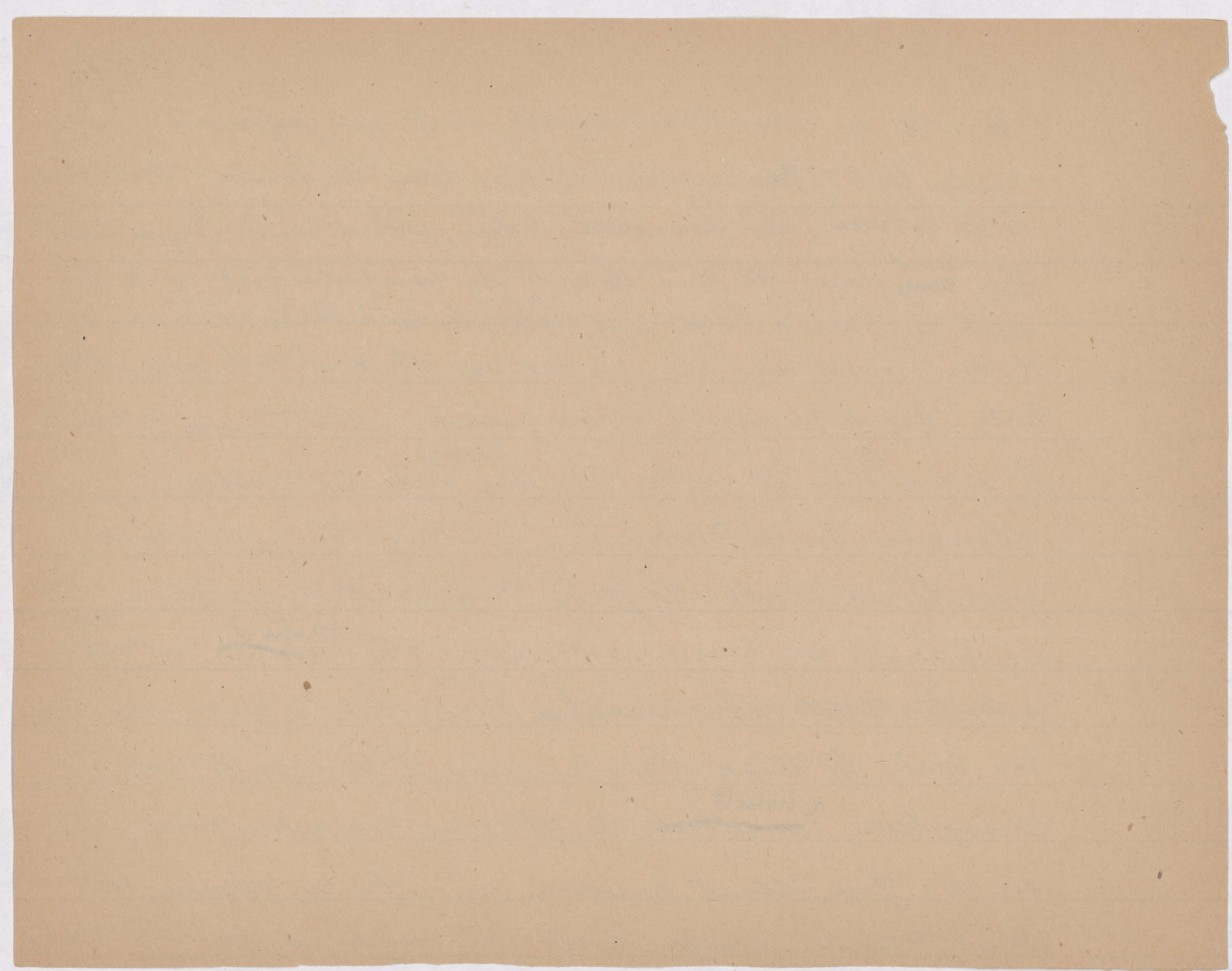
Undeterred by the ill success of his former attempts Hearne
again set out on the 7th of December 1770, this time with
Matonabee, who appears to have been an Indian of
uncommon resolution & good sense — as a guide. We
found again the old record of alternating starvation & plenty. On
the 23rd they arrived at Seal River, & then Selkirk Lake, a
sheet of water thirty-five miles wide, & continued havelly to the
west west, skirting along the edge of the wooded country, where
deer could be obtained. On the 7th of February they crossed Rock
Partridge Lake, fourteen miles wide. "It is impossible,"
writes Hearne, "to describe the intensity of the cold which
we experienced this day; & the dispatch we made in crossing

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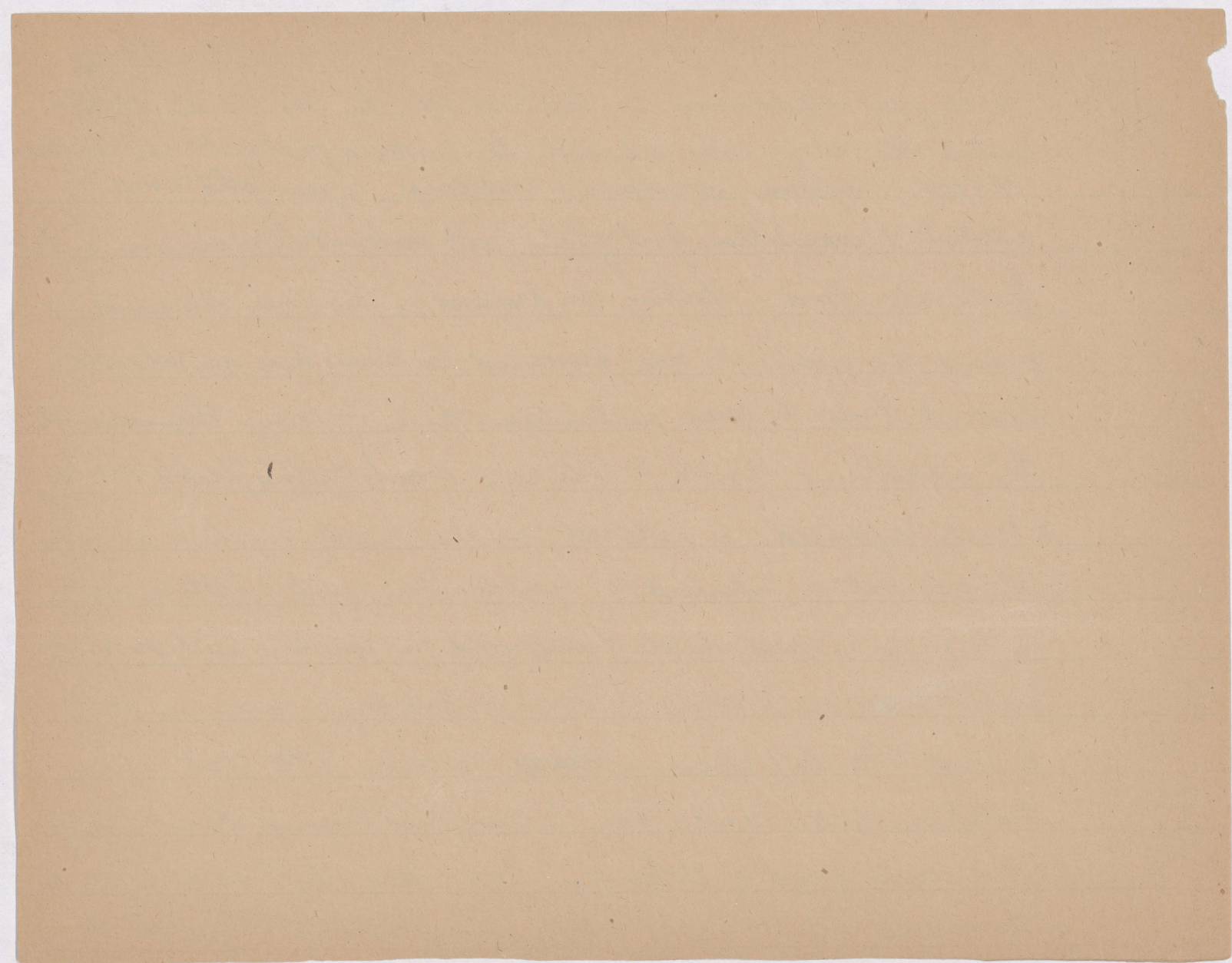
18th May

The Lake is almost incredible, as it was performed by the
greater part of ~~the~~ my crew in less than two hours, though some
of the women, who were being laden, took a much longer time".
For ~~some~~ ^{some} days after this the route lay nearly due west, & on the
21st they crossed Snowbird Lake, twelve to thirteen miles wide,
& then crossed some time, as food was abundant & it was yet too
early to think of crossing the barren grounds. On the second of March
they reached Pile Lake, & here find some ^{huts} Indians occupied, &
obtaining an abundant subsistence by taking deer in a pound,
which they had constructed for the purpose. Heame, who is not
very abundant of the manners & customs of the ^{slaps} ~~slaps~~ ^{natives}, but ~~not~~
~~breaks the thread of his narrative~~ now & then to refer upon them,
here breaks the thread of his narrative to describe the mode of
catching deer, ^{& inserts} ~~he inserts~~ the following remarks, which give
some idea of his quaint humor. — "In my opinion, there
cannot exist a stronger proof that man-kind was not created



19th

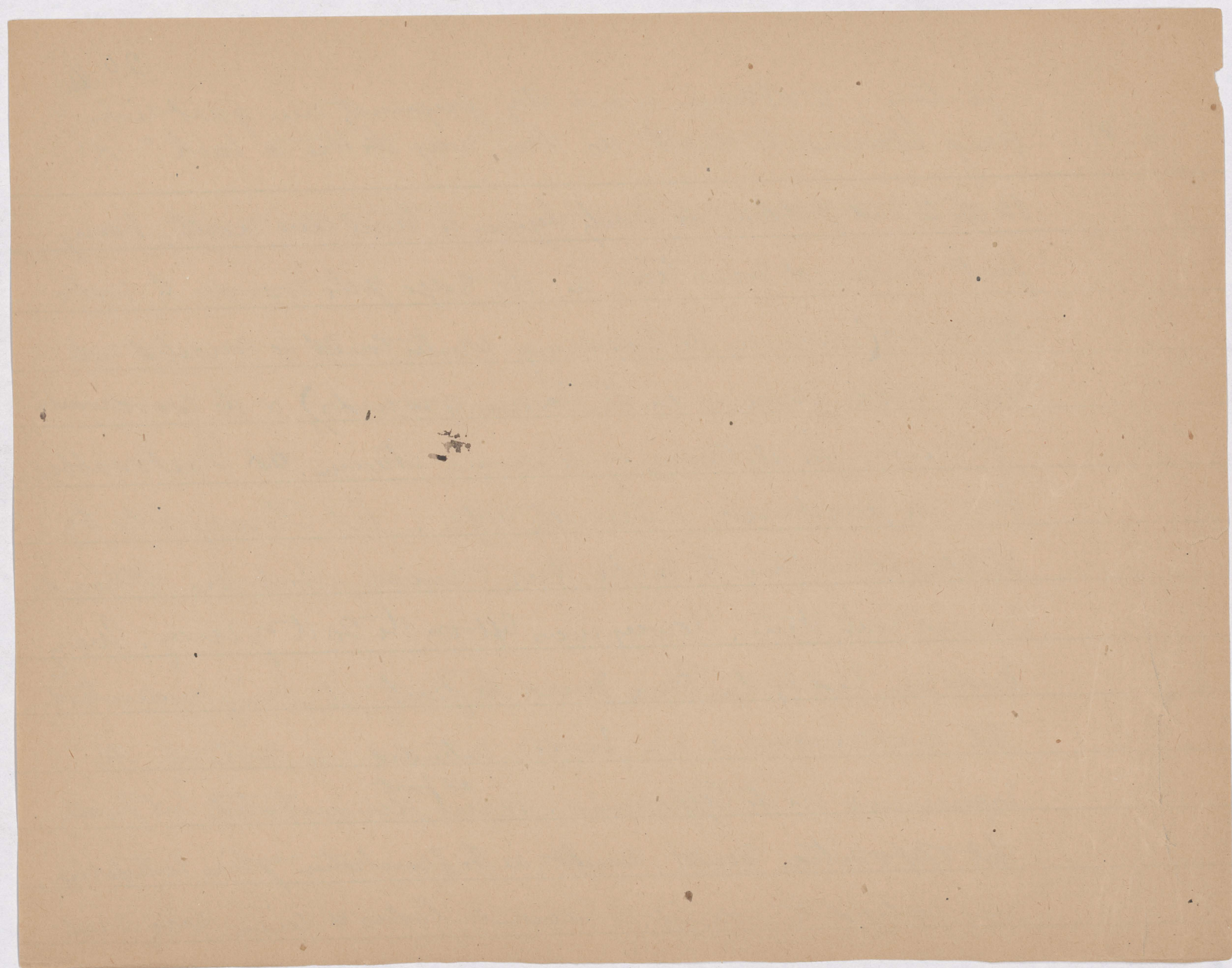
to enjoy happiness in this world, than the conduct of the
lazier all beings who inhabit this wretched part of it; as viz. but
the aged & infirm, the women & children, a few of the more
indolent & unambitious part of them, will submit to remain in the
parts where food & clothing are procured in this easy manner,
because no animals are produced there whose pers are valuable.
And what do the more industrious gain by giving themselves all
this additional trouble? The real wants of these people are few,
& easily supplied; a hatchet, an ice chisel, a file & a knife,
are all that is required to enable them, with a little industry,
to procure a comfortable livelihood; & those who endeavor to
pers more are always the most unhappy, & may, in fact,
be said to be only slaves & ~~chase~~ carriers to the rest, whose
ambition never leads them to anything beyond the means of
procuring food & clothing. It is true, the carriers pride
themselves much on the respect which is shown to them at the



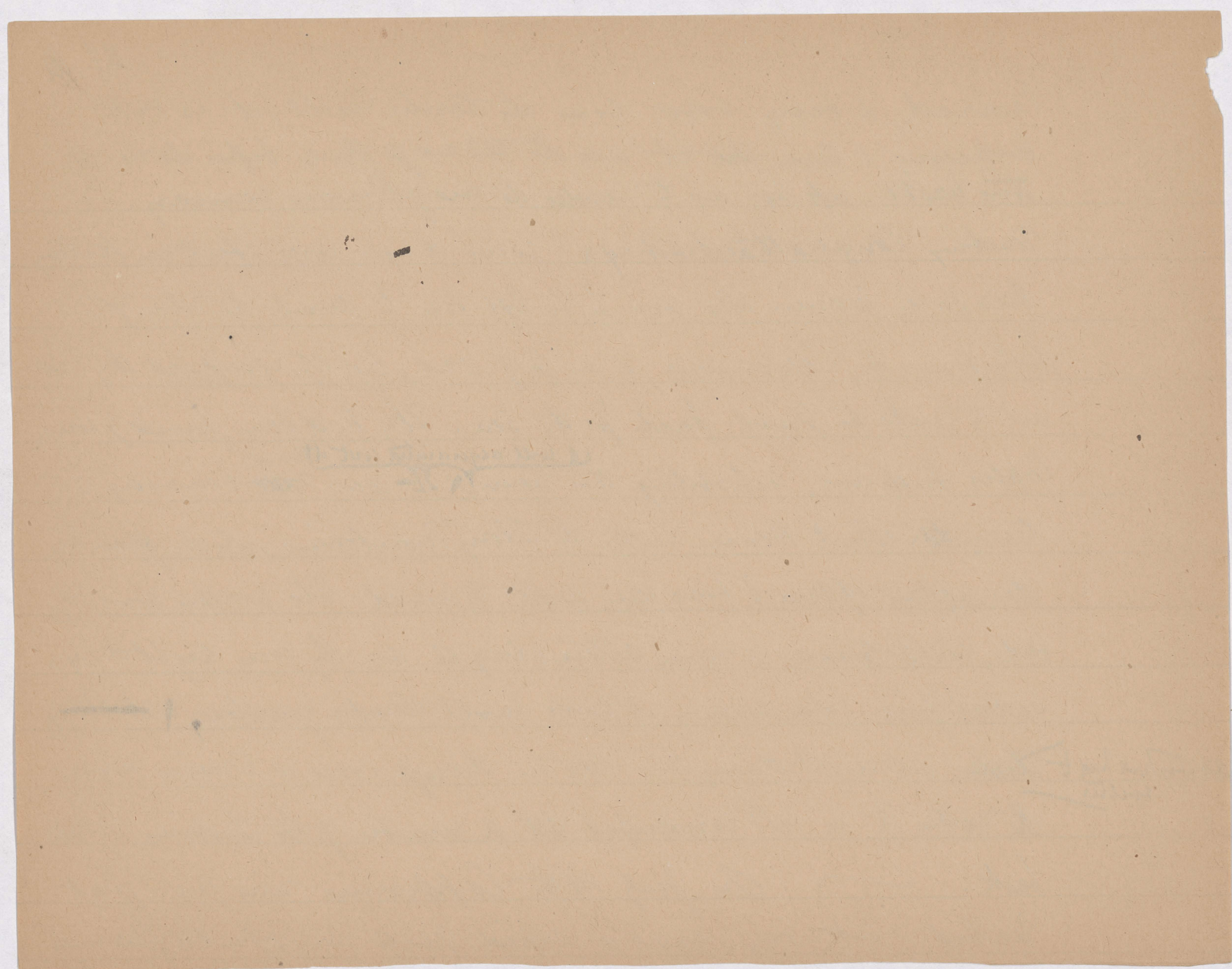
p. 81.

factory; to obtain which they frequently run great risks of being starved to death in their way thither & back." X!

On the 23rd of April the party began to travel due north, having first delayed some time in the edge of the woods to make tent poles (which in the ensuing winter could be converted into snow shoe frames on the barren grounds) & the woodwork of Canoes for the carrying of the various streams. ~~At~~ Matonabee here too purchased a seventh wife. At Clowey Lake they stopped some time to make their Canoes, which they afterwards carried with them. Clowey was left on the 20th of May. Many Indians led by this time joined the party, it being understood that Matonabee & his people intended to attack the Esquimaux on the Coppermine. He ^{at first} ~~was~~ ^{planned} ~~planned~~, but judging that opposition would result in the frustration of his enterprise was obliged to desist. Several lakes & rivers were met



Crossed, & being now near the Arctic Circle, it is not
 surprising to learn that it was the 22nd of June before the ice on
 there broke up so as to render the use of glaucous necessary. On
 reaching Congecathawachaga, some days were spent in killing
 deer for the women who were to be left here to await the return yete
 party from the Coppermine, & on July 2nd, lightly equipped they set
 out to make the final push for the sea. They had been joined by some
 Copper Indians, inhabiting this region, ^{and well acquainted with the snow} ~~it~~ was ~~not~~ necessary to
 cross ~~the~~ what Hearne calls the Snow Mountains, which from his
 description appear to have been well named. The weather was very
 bad, sleet snow & rain alternating & as they were eight days
 without fire before arriving at some small clumps of willow, ~~as they had had to~~ ~~shelter~~
 at night during this time in damp caves & crevices among
 the rocks, it is not wonderful that a number of the Indians turned
 back. On July 14th the Coppermine river was first
 reached, but by a shoal & rapid quite disappointed Hearne



corruption of it. The Indians now sent spies ahead, who,
 in two days returned, saying, for that of Sigismant was the
 mouth of the river. Preparations were ~~made~~ ^{immediately} taken to surprise these poor
 people; & without dwelling on the pitiful account of their massacre,
 which Hearne, powderless to prevent, was obliged to witness, it may
 suffice to state that they were ruthlessly butchered, their tents
 plundered of what copper utensils they contained, & their stone
 axes, & all ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~rest~~ ^{rest} were not worth carrying away,
 broken. — On the 27th of July Hearne had the proud satisfaction
 of reaching the mouth of the Coppermine & observing the flood & reflux
 of the tide, & on the 28th set out on his return. In his
 instructions he was directed to cut the date & his name on
 some rock & take possession of the Country for the Hudson's Bay
 Company, but being without the necessary implements, he, for form's
 sake, worked these particulars on one of the Indians wooden

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Shields I turned this in a heap of stones on a swell
 hill near the entrance of the river on the South Side. He was
 first conducted to the place from which the Copper specimens which
 had given rise to so much conjecture were obtained, & though
 he had some copper, said he concluded that the district was
 so ~~far~~ unaccountable point it being of commercial importance

The Indians anxious to repair their ~~broken~~ families now
 began to travel southward by long stages, making sometimes
 40 or 45 miles in a day, ^{& carrying their families so portable} ~~carrying their families so portable~~
 that, as he remarks, had they much longer maintained this pace,
 he would infallibly have been left behind. On July 24th they
 reached Congecathawtchaga, & from this point continued
 southward to the west of his former route, traveling slowly,
 & passing many small lakes. During this part of the journey
 one of the women being about to die, was, according to the custom
 of the nation left behind. On the 24th of December they

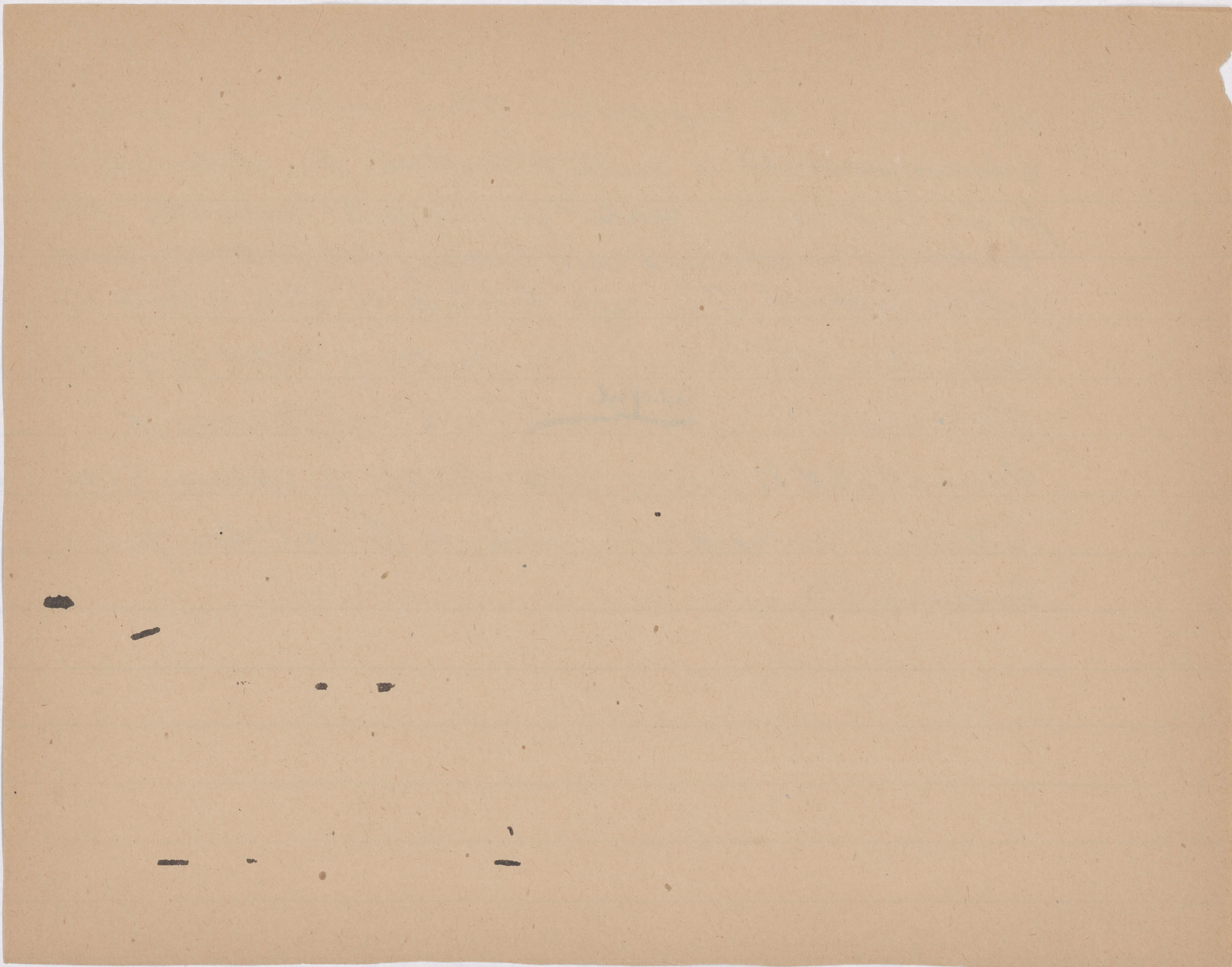
1551

reached the Great Athabasca Lake, which had not
 previously been visited by a white man, though afterwards an
 important point on the main trade route through this
 Country, & the starting place of Sir Alexander Mackenzie ^{only} a few
 years prior to this time. In January they crossed Athabasca Lake
 on the ice & then continued travelling generally northward during the
 remainder of the winter & spring. For a time they were very short
 of provisions, & several of the women of the party actually died of
 starvation. It could not have been with any feeling of regret
 that Hearne eventually, on the 30th of June 1772 again saw
 Prince of Wales Is^{land} ~~South of the~~, after an absence from it of nearly 19 months.

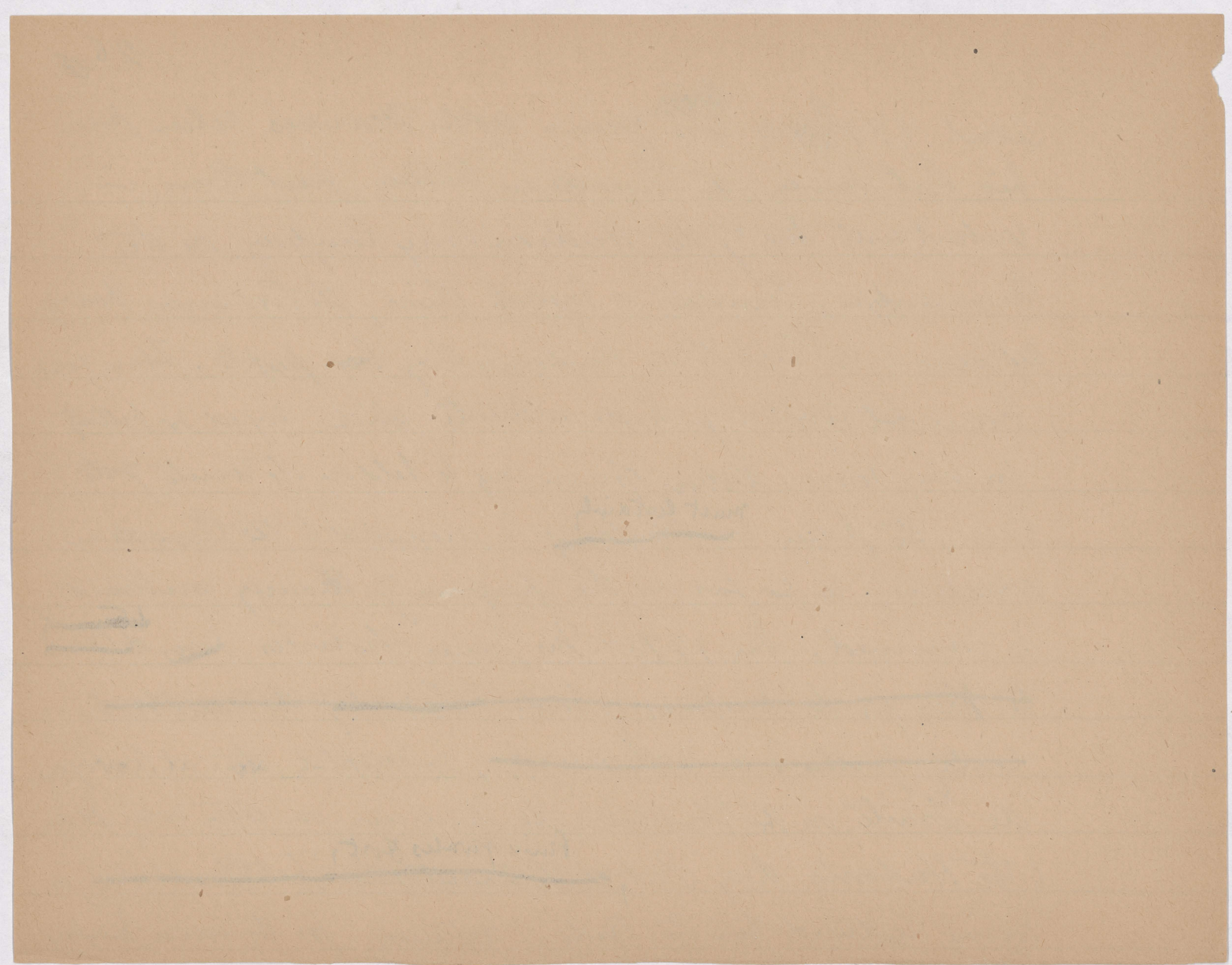
Hearne's journey as being the most important exploration
 of that new country undertaken by the Hudson's Bay
 Company, deserves to be chronicled ^{at some length} ~~in some detail~~, & though
 his latitude & longitude were subsequently found to place the
 mouth of the Coppermine somewhat too far north & west,

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this, owing to the imperfection of his instruments, is not
 to be wondered at a matter of surprise. His observations, so
 far as we know are ~~generally~~ generally quite trustworthy, & the
 hardships he endured were certainly as great as could
 well be suffered. The high latitude in which he found the
 northern shore of the Continent to be, practically settled the question
 of the existence of a ~~possible~~ ^{useful} north west passage, &
 demonstrated the futility of the attempts of explorers by sea
 to reach the westward by the white on the west shore of
 Hudson's Bay.

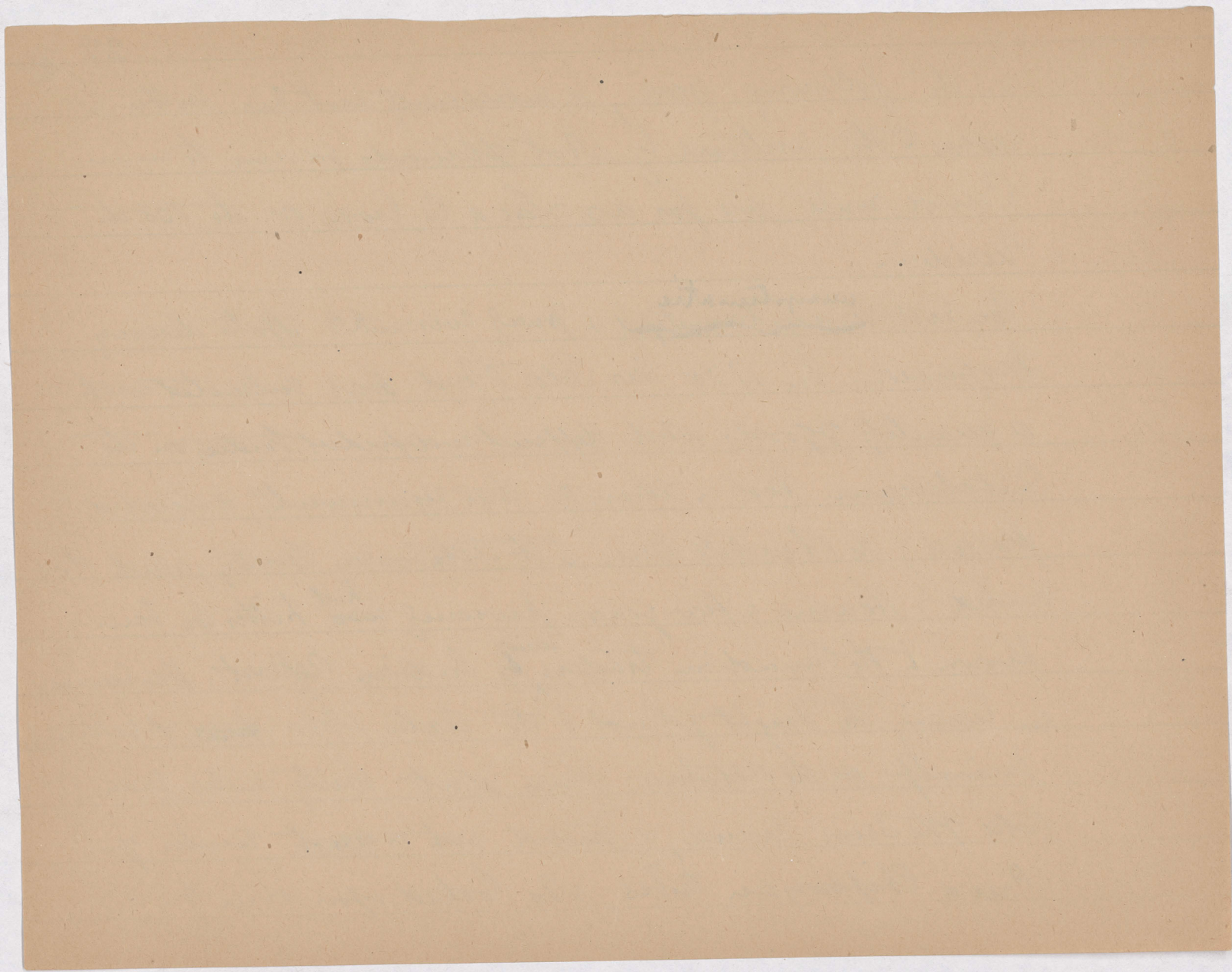


About 177⁴~~1775~~ or ~~two~~^{three} years after Hearne's return from
 his last journey, the Canadian traders first came in
 contact with some of the Hudson's Bay Company on the
 Mississippi, Churchill or English River, the last name having
 reference to the "English" or Hudson's Bay ~~men~~ people. They first
 began that conflict of trade interests which raged so bitterly
 for many years. Whether opinion may be held as to which of the
 two, the polemic ^{must certainly} ~~must~~ be awarded to the Canadian
 adventurers. In so far as the progress of discovery westward
 is concerned. In 1775 - Mr James Trobister, ~~was directed~~^{authorized}
~~to open for the purposes of trade the country the well known~~
~~country further to the west & west, inscribed to at Portage~~
 de Traite on the Churchill, the Indians on their way down
 to the Hudson's Bay Port, ^{Prince of Wales Fort,} ~~at the mouth of the Fort Churchill,~~ &
 having induced them to trade, returned for the same purpose



in the following year, & subsequently sent his brother to explore to the westward by which afterwards became the main Carve route as far as Lac a la Croix on the 108th Meridian.

By such ~~unsystematic~~ ^{unsystematic} & purely mercantile efforts discovery progressed. In 1778 Mr Peter Pond was entrusted with a quantity of goods which different independent traders on the Saskatchewan had in view of their requirements, & directed to proceed by the Churchill River to the Athabasca Country, which though visited by Hearne a few years previous ~~was~~ ^{had} hitherto been known to the Canadian traders ^{being} by Indian Report. He succeeded in crossing the height of land to the Arctic Slope ~~and~~ & established himself on the Athabasca River about thirty miles from the Lake of the same name, & traded with a great number of Cree & Chipewyan tribes, who looked upon him as a



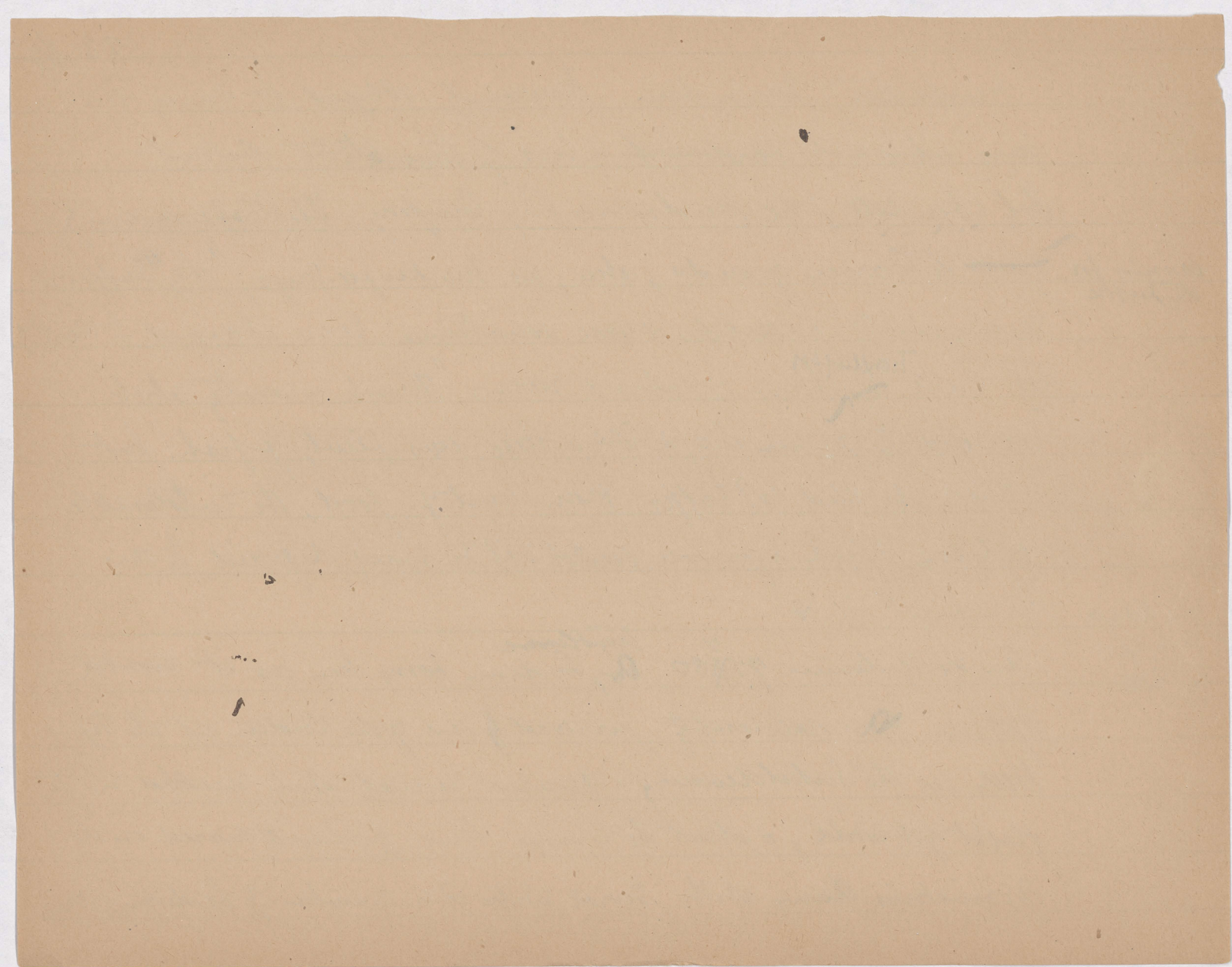
benefactor, having been previously obliged to carry their
 furs at great hardships & loss of time to the distant
 Fort Churchill of the Hudson's Bay Company. The Chepewyan &

coming for
 this purpose

crossed the Barren grounds, where, as Mackenzie says, "they ^{the} suffered
 innumerable hardships & were sometimes even starved to death;
 The Cree ^{travelling by} ~~crossed~~ lakes & rivers, "through a country which
 abounded in animals, & where there was plenty of fish; but
 though they did not suffer from want of food, the intolerable
 fatigue of such a journey could not be surely repaid to an
 Indian" .X. ✓

Mackenzie
 Voyages
 p. XIII.

In the Autumn of ~~1750~~ ^{troublesome} 1750, a Hudson's Bay Company man as it would
 appear ~~was~~ deliberately poisoned by one of the traders at the Eagle
 Hills on the Saskatchewan, a quarrel turned which resulted in the
 flight of the whites, & about the same time fighting occurred on the
 Assiniboine during which several whites & a number of Indians were



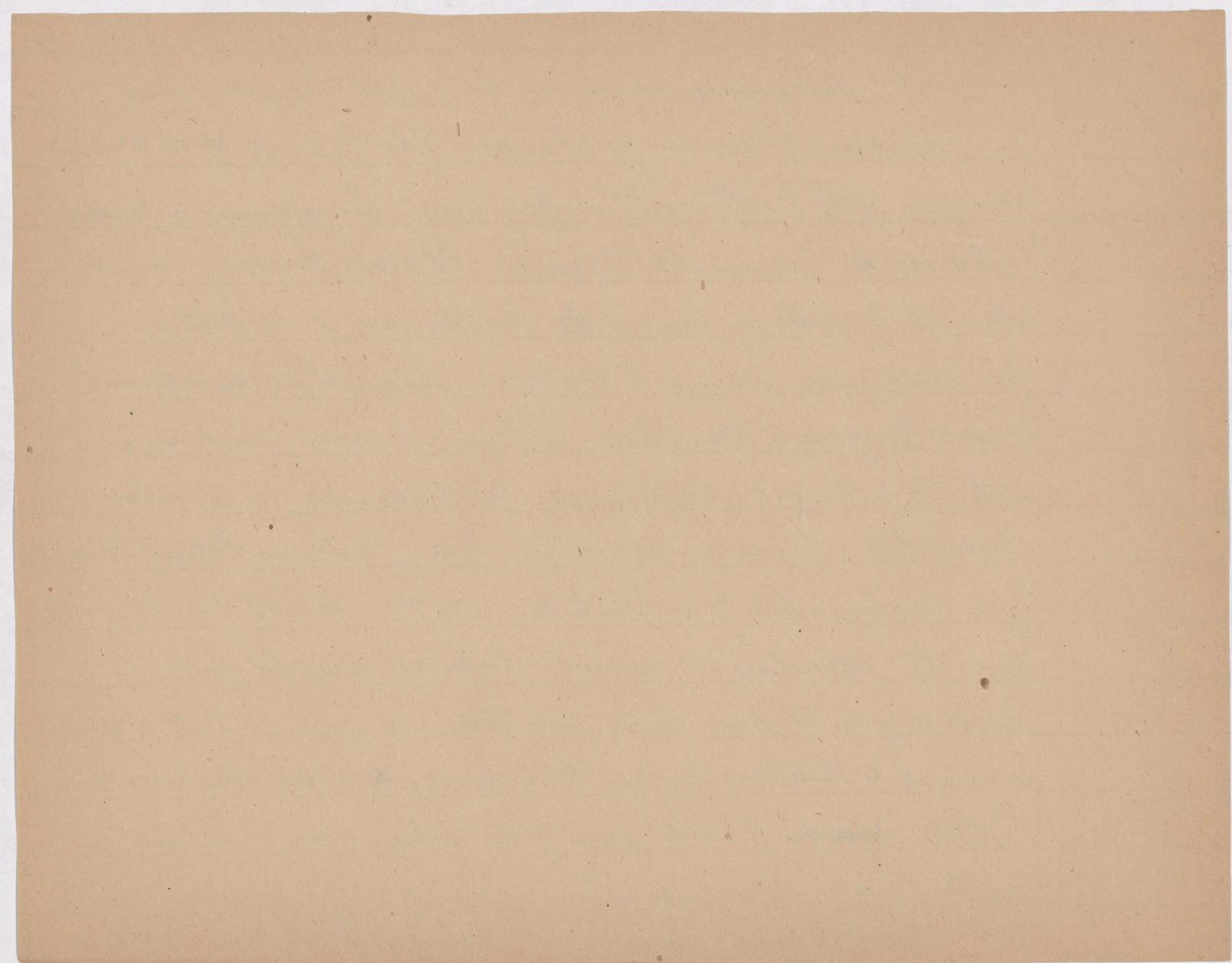
29th 46

Killed. The natives in short became troublesome, & according
to tradition the fur trade in all this region would probably have been
destroyed, had not one of these mysterious events, in which a hand
from without seems to strike down the weaker before the stronger, occurred.
The small-pox broke out among the Indians, ^{causing} ~~giving rise to~~ a
fearful mortality & spreading in all directions, ^{causing}
carrying the most profound distress among these poor people & ~~and~~
giving rise to ^{scarcities} which it would be unreasonably dangerous to endeavour
to recall. This while it depopulated the country prevented the
Indians from exterminating the whites, but nevertheless the ^{number} ~~number~~ of
traders was greatly reduced & the whole course of trade interrupted.

In the winter of 1783-4 the Montreal merchants interested
in the western fur trade agreed to ~~propose~~ ^{to} combine under the
name of the North-west Company, the partners to the
agreement bargain agreeing to promising to satisfy their

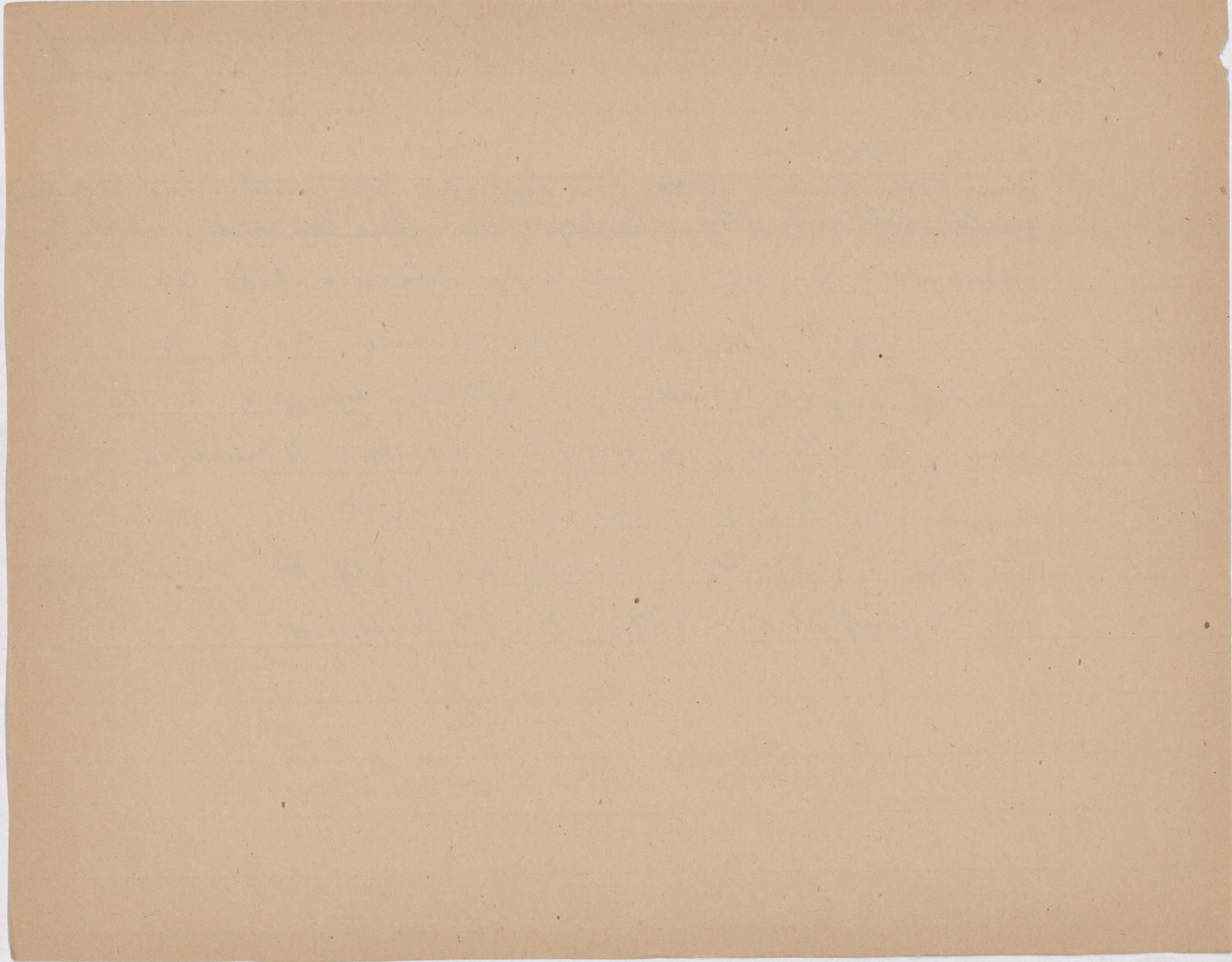


several ~~partners~~ agents in the west by giving them an appropriate number of shares. The names of the original managers of the North West Company were Benjamin & Joseph Frobisher & Simon McTavish. It was, however, found difficult to satisfy some of the out traders, & one of these, a Mr Pangman, coming to Montreal, associated himself with Messrs Gregory & MacLeod to form a rival company, with Mr Mackenzie, afterwards Sir Alexander, was also connected. A severe competition began but was happily terminated by a combination of interests in 1787. In 1787 the following was the 'adventure' or amount of capital invested for trading purposes by the Company was forty thousand pounds, but it had increased to three times this in three years, & about this time the total ~~number~~ of employees of the Company was as follows
 Clerks, fifty, Interpreters - Seventy one Guides - thirty-five, Caravel men 1120. We must not forget, however,



from our main subject - to trace the course of trade established 31
by the North West Company, but Ferry noted the fact of ~~Storrs~~
Mackenzie's connection with it, & followed him for a time in his
Western explorations.

Few of the forerunners of the early explorers of the north-west required
greater determination & courage than those by which Mackenzie
setting out on each occasion from Athabasca Lake reached
successively the Arctic & Pacific oceans. In his first
journey, he found himself, as he tells us, deficient in the
science of astronomy & navigation & without the necessary books
& instruments, & on his return from it he undertook
a voyage to England to remedy these wants. His second expedition
was accomplished in 1802-3. He published



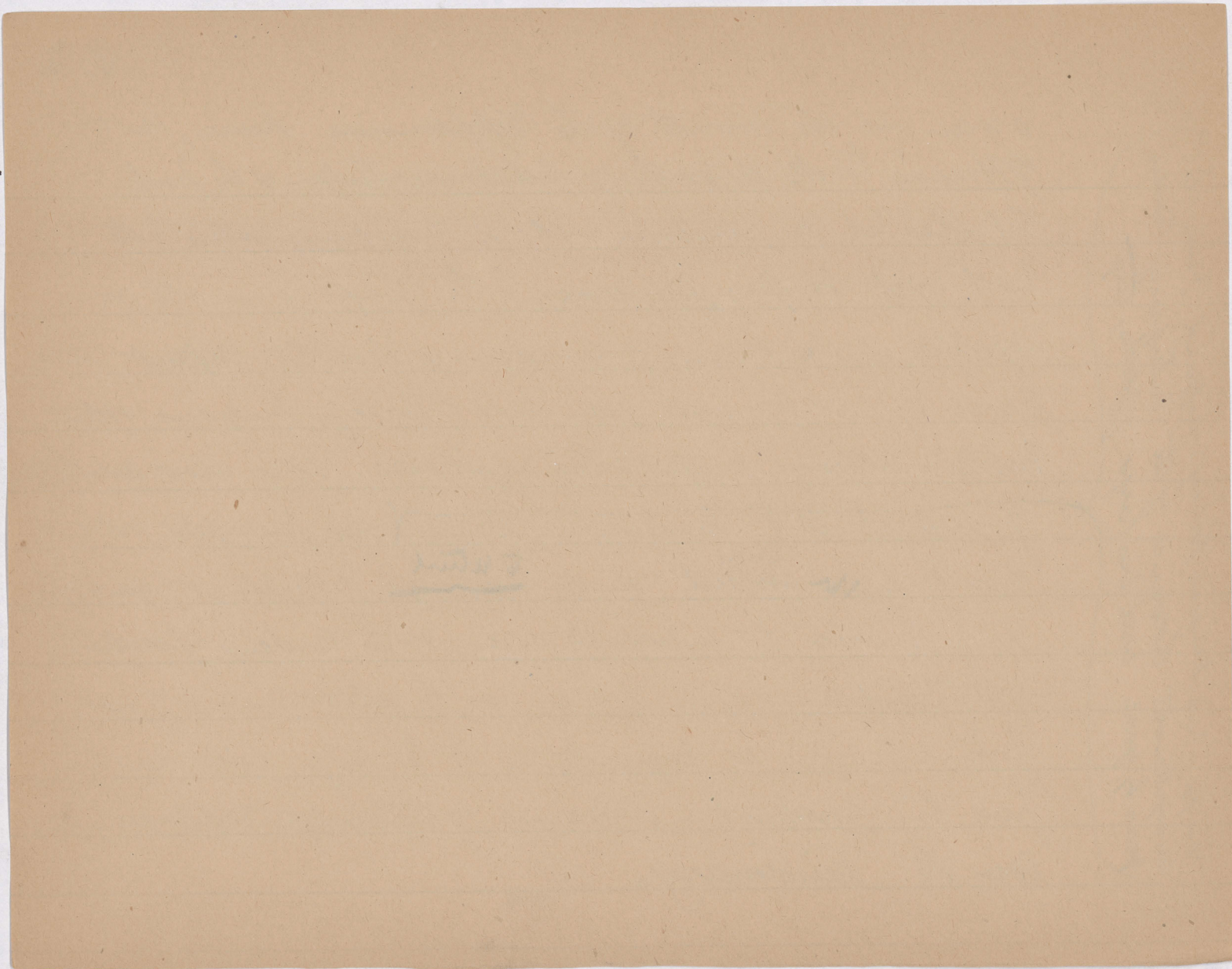
in London in 1801 an account of his ^{explorations} Voyages, & shortly afterward
 received the Pension of Knighthood for his distinguished services to
 Geography. He tells us in a preface that he was much better
 fitted ~~calculated~~ to perform the Voyages, arduous though they might be, than
 to write an account of them. & modestly warns us that we must
 not expect embellished narrative or animal description, but
~~using the expression~~ ~~received at the command of what he saw.~~
 "Mountains & Valleys, the dense waste & wide spreading
 forests, the Lakes & rivers" succeeding each other as they presented
 themselves to his view.

To understand the importance of ~~the~~ Mackenzies' discoveries
 it is necessary to appreciate state of knowledge of the
 western part of the Continent at the time they were made.
 nearly twenty years ^{as we have seen} before, Hearne had reached the Arctic

Hand.

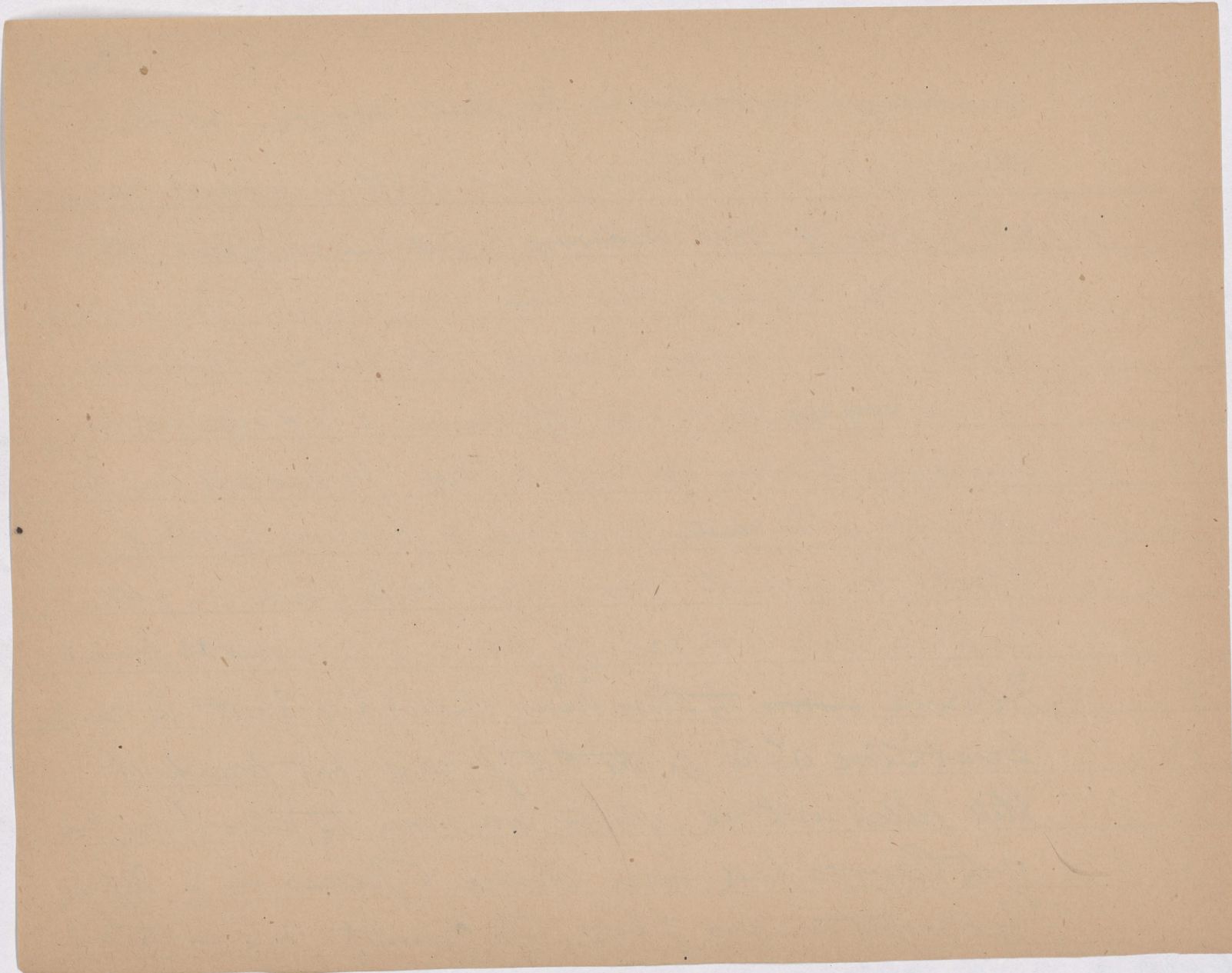
ocean at the mouth of the Coppermine River, but west
 of Hearne's track & north of Athabasca Lake & the points
 established on Athabasca Lake & neighboring waters of the
 north west Company, all was to the Pacific ocean all was
 conjecture, or that species of uncertain & distorted report which
 passed by word of mouth from tribe to tribe of Indians, often
 false & always fearful of their neighbours. It is also worthy
 of remark that Mackenzie's journey was prompted not so
 much by ~~an~~ ^{were} abstract desire ~~to~~ ^{to return} geographical knowledge,
 as by the wish to enlarge the area of the trading operations
 of the Company, & open the way for the establishment of new
 posts. Hence, as so frequently in the history of exploration we
 find the merchant in advance of the scientific explorer, or
 even the missionary.

though Mackenzie's journey differed from the
 un-geographical advance of the subsequent trader
 year by year with his cargo of goods, they



leave out

Mackenzie embarked on his first voyage, at Fort
 Chipewyan on the Third of June 1789 in a bark canoe,
 with a crew of four ~~Indians~~ Canadian voyageurs, two of
 whom were attended by their wives, & a German. In a second
 small canoe was an Indian who had been with them
 in his voyage down to the Coppermine & had acquired in
 consequence the name of English Chief. He had with him his
 two wives, & two ~~small~~ young Indian followers in a third
 canoe. In a fourth canoe was M. le Roue one of the
 Campings' Clerks with goods for trade & to be bestowed as presents.
 Following ~~down~~ the Slave River, nearly due North, he reached
 Great Slave Lake on the 9th of June, but found it
 still filled with ice. On the way down the Slave River, one
 of the canoes had been dashed to pieces in a rapid,
 but without any loss of life. The quantity of ice in the lake,

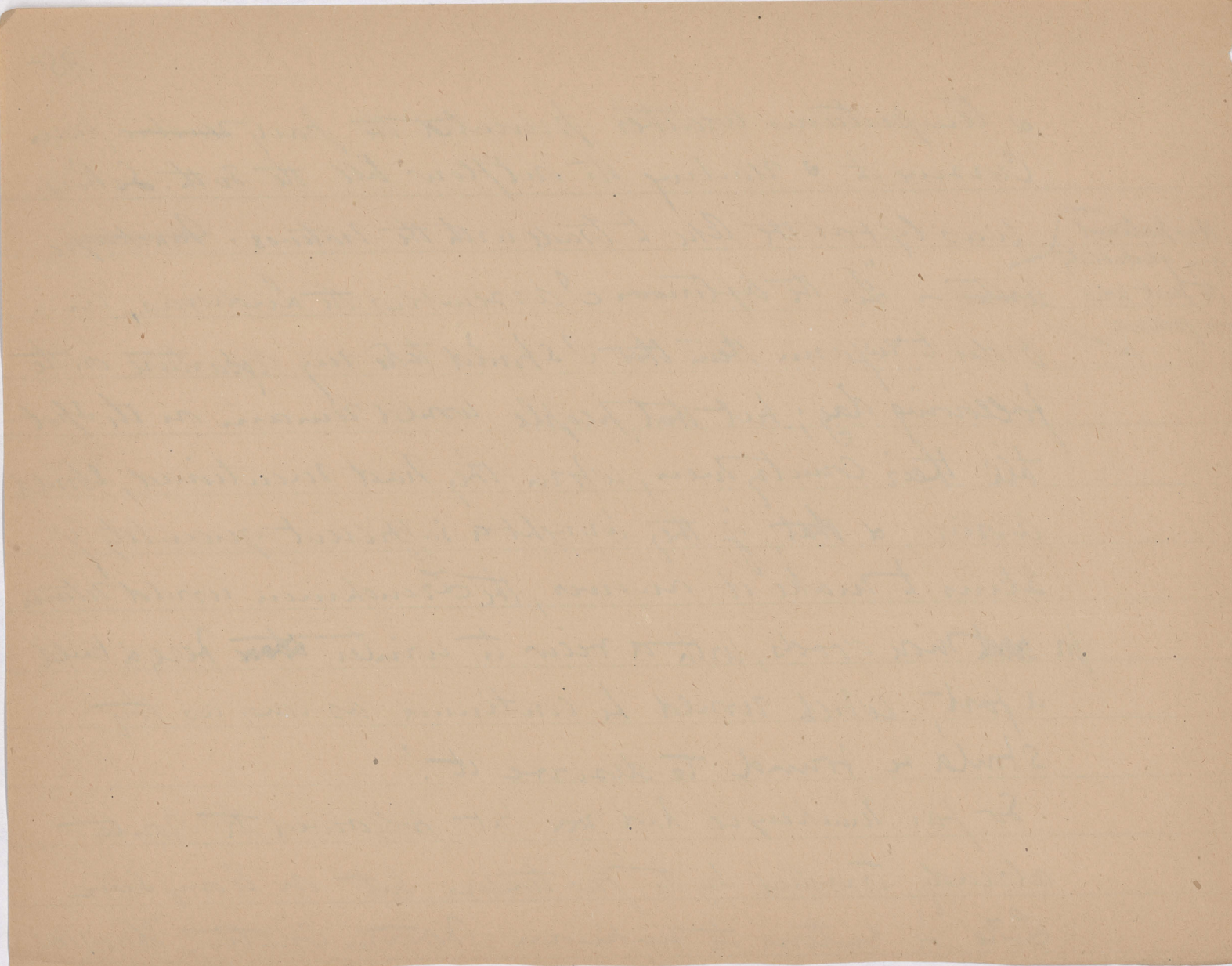


& tempestuous weather prevented the party ~~starting~~ from
 Crossing it & reaching its outflow till the 30th. Le Roue

His paternal
 way of settling
 the post was
 as follows

was left at the Lake to trade with the natives. Mackenzie
 writes - "In the afternoon I assembled the Indians, in
 order to inform them that I should take my departure on the
 following day; but that people would remain on the spot
 till their countrymen, whom they had mentioned, should
 arrive; & that, if they brought a sufficient quantity of
 Skins to make it answer, the Frenchmen would return
 for ~~not~~ more goods, with a view to winter ~~there~~ here, & build
 a fort, which would be continued as long as they
 should be found to deserve it."

So far Mackenzie had ~~not~~ but followed the route
 already travelled by the fur traders, but on leaving Slave
 Lake he entered the unknown Northern Country. Throughout

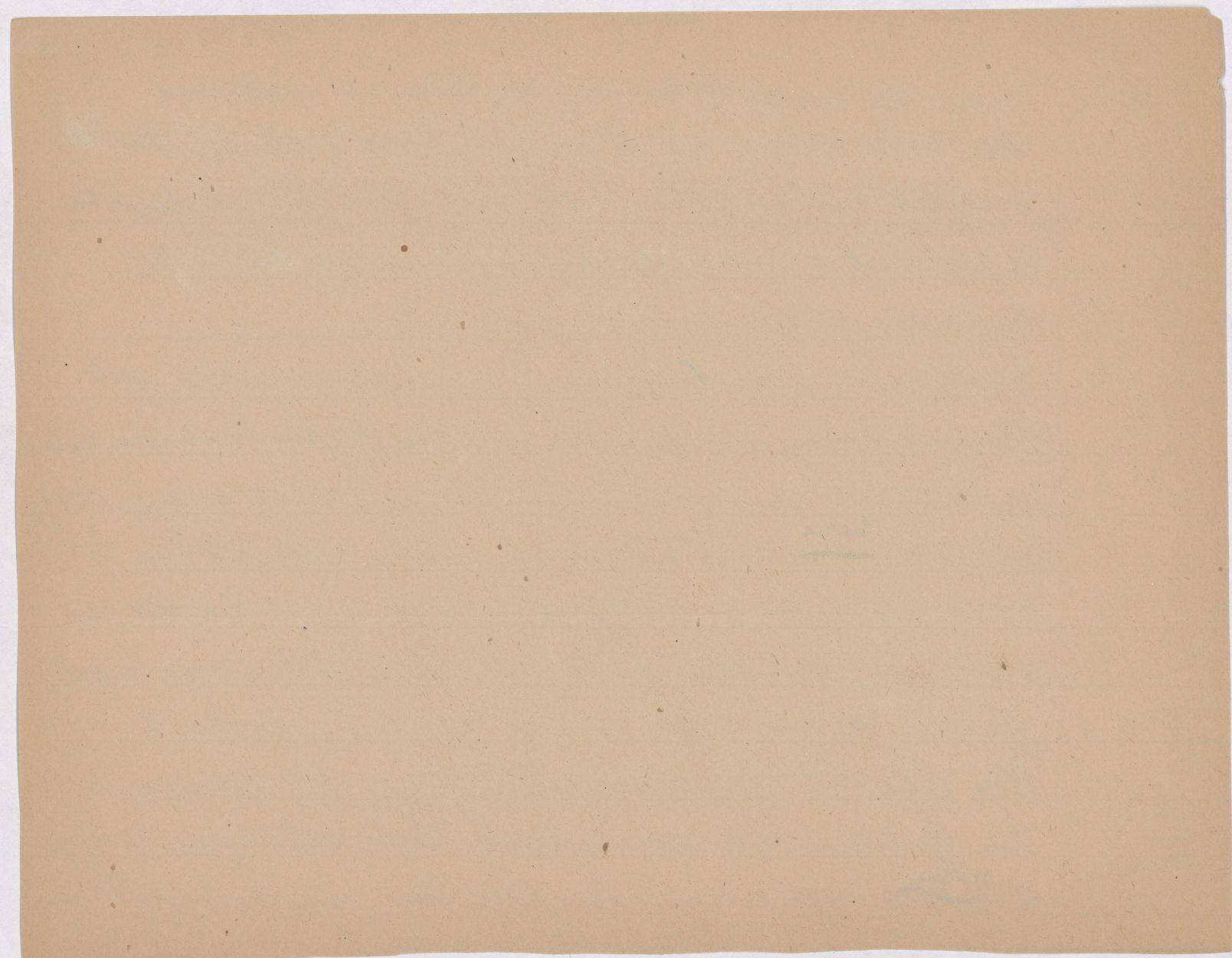


7

Know the use of Tobacco; we likewise supplied them with grog; but I am disposed to think, that they accepted our civilities more from fear than inclination. We acquired a more effectual influence over them by the distribution of knives, beads, awls &c. —

p. 33.

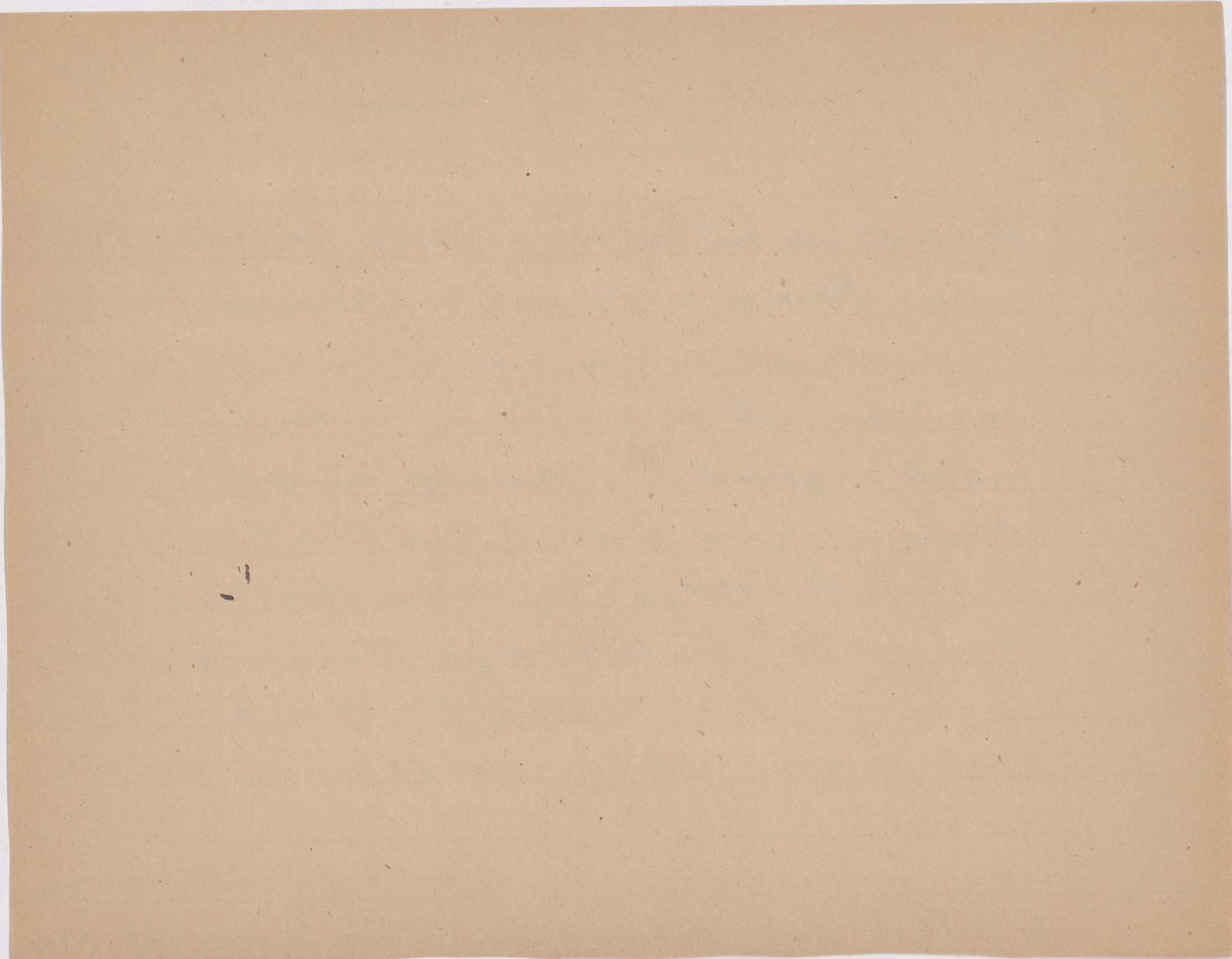
Mackeyce, as is his custom, gives a minute description of the appearance, habits, & circumstances of these people. He was particularly anxious to obtain information about the river & surrounding country, but could ~~obtain~~ ^{learn} little but fabulous stories. They told him it would take several winters to go to the sea, & that old age would come upon them before they could return, that there were impassible falls in the river & that horrible monsters inhabited its banks. These tales did not discourage Mackeyce, but dissuaged his Indians, who were already tired of the voyage. That of the ^{native} ~~Indian~~ peoples seem to have lived thus, in a narrow strait



Circle of doubtful security, surrounded fenced in on all sides by the various Creations of their own imaginations.

These people were met first near the mouth of Bear Lake River, & two days afterwards another party was discovered. These like the first people, were much frightened & all ran away but an old man & woman. "The old man, however," Mackenzie writes "did not hesitate to approach us, & represented himself as too far advanced in life, & too indifferent about the short time he had to remain in the world, to be very anxious about escaping from any danger that threatened him; at the same time he pulled his grey hairs from his head by handfuls to distribute among us, & implored our favour for himself & his relations."

A guide had been procured from the first party, but he soon became so restless from fear of meeting the Esquimaux, that it was

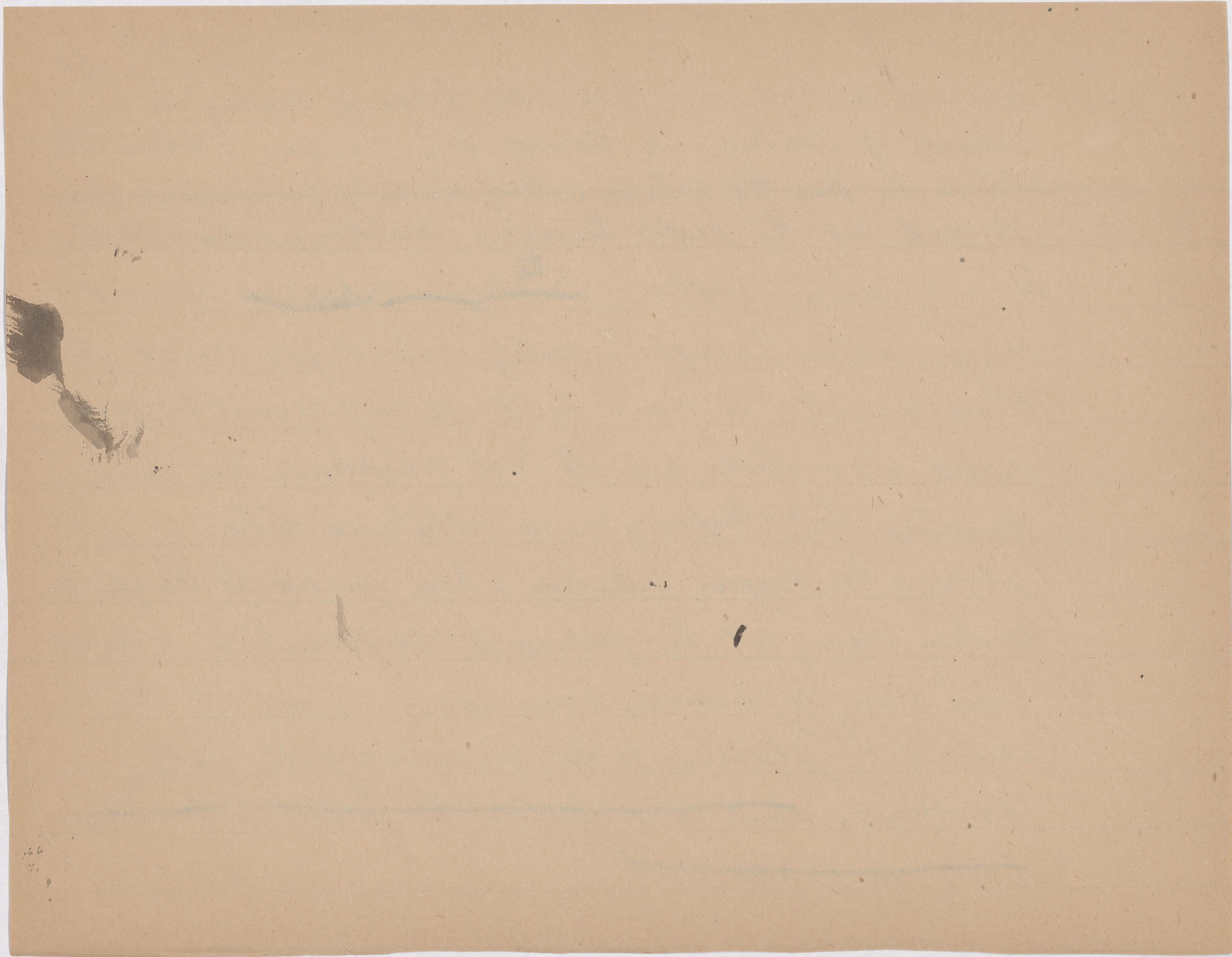


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reached the sea, by observing the tides & seeing a school of whales, he turned his canoes to stem the stream on ~~his~~ the return. Very traces of Esquimaux were observed but the people themselves Mackenzie did not see.

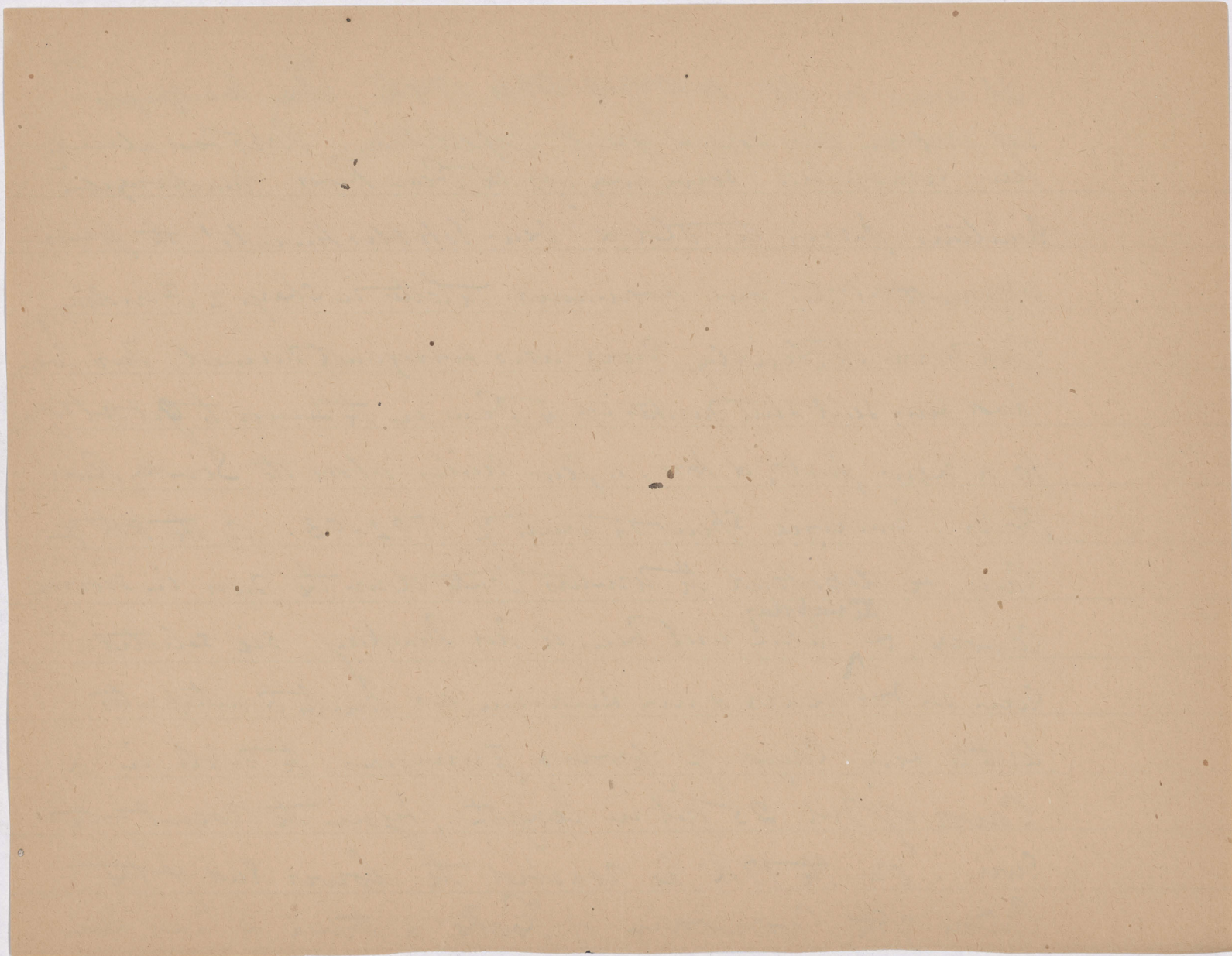
It is needless to follow ~~Mackenzie's~~ ^{the} ~~return~~ upward voyage, tedious enough in reality in the struggle against the strong current of the river. On the 22nd of August he again reached Slave Lake & on the 12th of September his head quarters, Fort Chipewyan on Athabasca Lake.

It was Mackenzie's intention to have reached the Pacific or Western Ocean, but he gained the Arctic instead, & could gather from the Indians & Esquimaux only of the existence of ^{great} streams on the western side of the Rocky Mountains, ~~which were observed to follow the ~~course~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~river~~ ~~on~~ ~~its~~ ~~left~~ ~~bank~~.~~



41

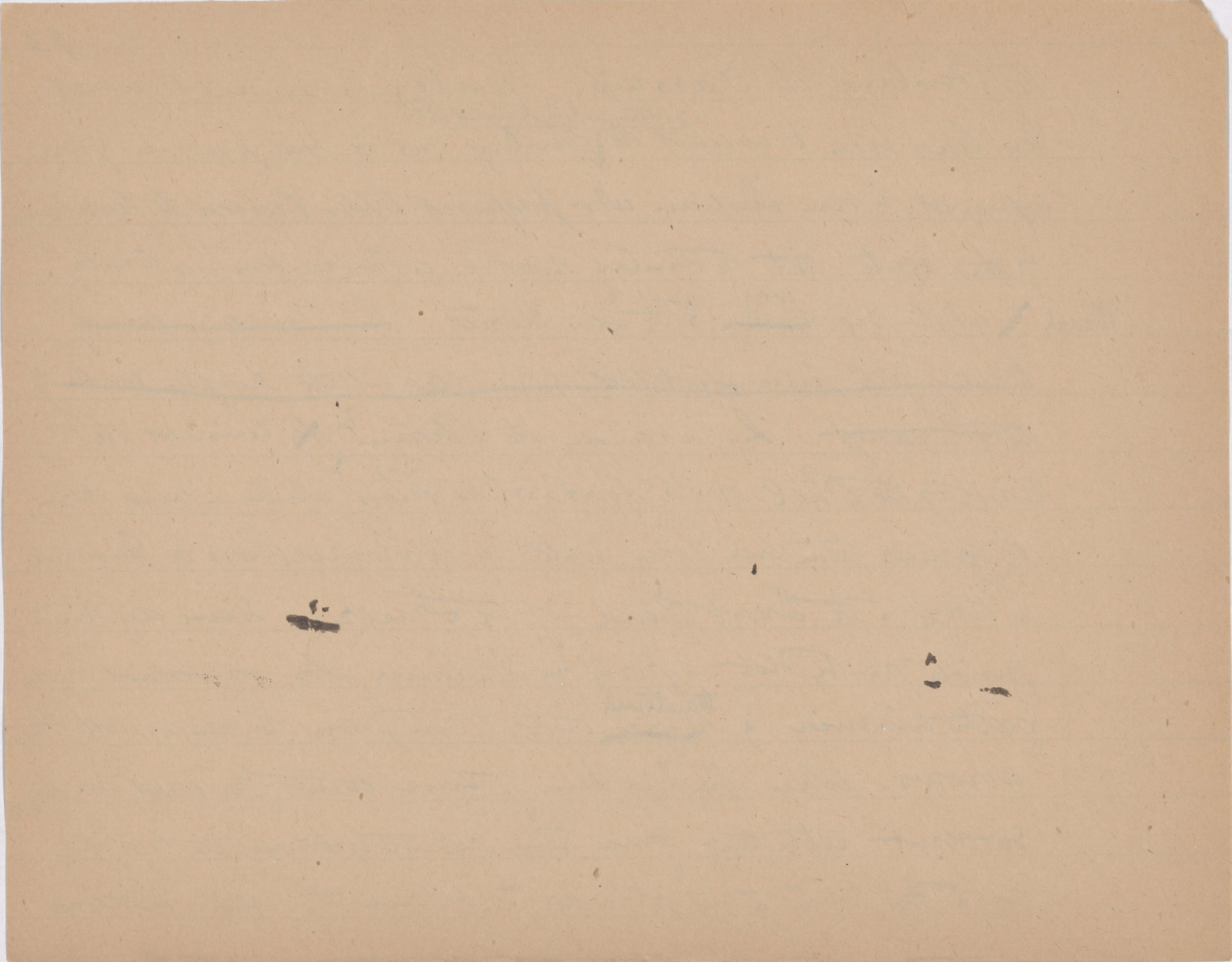
It was on the 10th of October 1792, ^{that} ~~when~~ Mackenzie
set out on his second great expedition. Posts had already
been established some way up the Peace River, Mackenzie
winters passing the old & new 'Establishments', the former
apparently at this time abandoned, the latter in charge of Finlay,
after whom the Finlay River was subsequently named. Two men
had been sent still further up the Peace in the summer to get out logs
for a new fort, & here, a few miles above the Snake River
Forks, Mackenzie spent the winter of 1792-93. On the 8th of
May he dispatched the winter trade down the river in several
canoes, & ^{the next day} taking with him a Mr Mackay, six selected
men as voyageurs & an Indian as hunter & interpreter,
with a heavy cargo of goods & provisions, the whole in a
canoe of but 25 feet in length, began the ascent of the
river. On the 17th he reached the lower end of the
Canyon of the Mountain of Rocks & though he had been



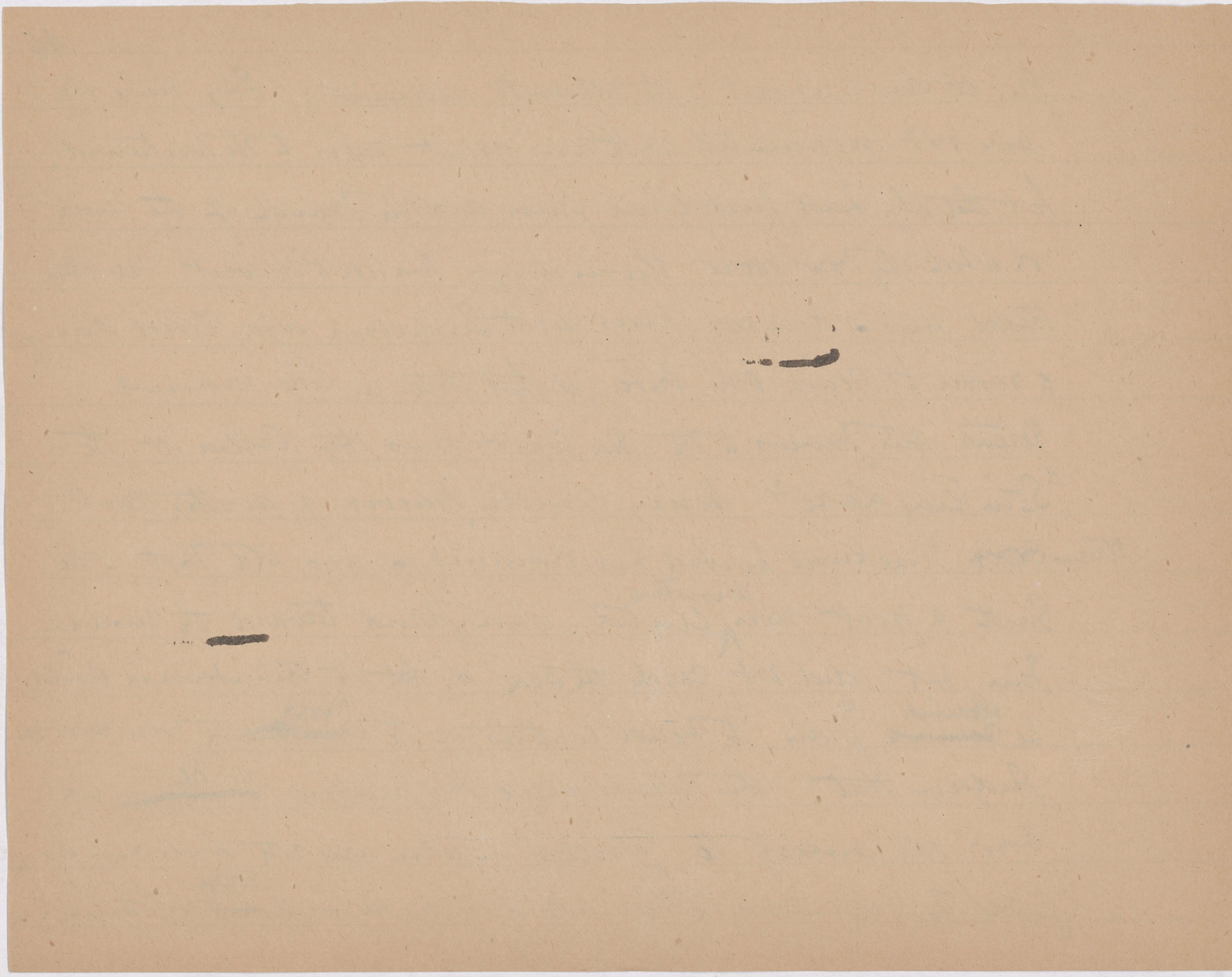
informed that a portage would have to be made ~~at about~~ ^{near}
 this place, & indeed led to believe from the exaggerated accounts
 that he was likely to find a fall greater than Niagara, he
 pursued the Indian route, ~~which is still used & attempted~~
 the ascent of the rapids, a feat which has never been accomplished.
 After jelling up some way, ~~the~~ ^{he} was obliged to retrace
 ahead by land & cut out a trail through the woods to the head
 of the rapids, which was gained after great exertion on the
 24th. The Indian portage is twelve miles in length,
 across a neck of land, & is still employed, Mackenzie
 used it on his return. Passing through the Rocky Mountain
 Range by the remarkable & picturesque gaps which the Peace
 River has found for itself, the voyagers next reached the place
 where the Peace River, properly so called, is formed by the
 junction of the ~~Findlay & the P~~ streams since known as

11

the Finlay & the Parsnip. Mackenzie's intention would
 have led him to ascend the ^{stream, which he called the} Finlay, but he had previously been
 informed by an Indian who professed to have crossed the mountains
 by this route, that the Finlay rose in a mountainous country
 through which no ^{way} ~~route~~ to the sea existed. ~~His people, already~~
~~tiring of the incessant toil, grumbled at the swift water of~~
~~the Parsnip. In ascending the stream, he~~ ^{he} ~~revised~~ the
 route of the Pack or McLeod's Lake River, which would have
 afforded them an easy route by the Crooked River & Gisham
 Portage to the Great Bend of the Fraser. Some distance
 further on they met a party of Indians, who as usual were
 greatly alarmed & ^{threatened} ~~shot~~ them from the bank with their
 arrows. When they had been to some extent pacified, Mackenzie
 set about extracting from them all the information he could
 as to the route to be followed to obtain the sea, but was

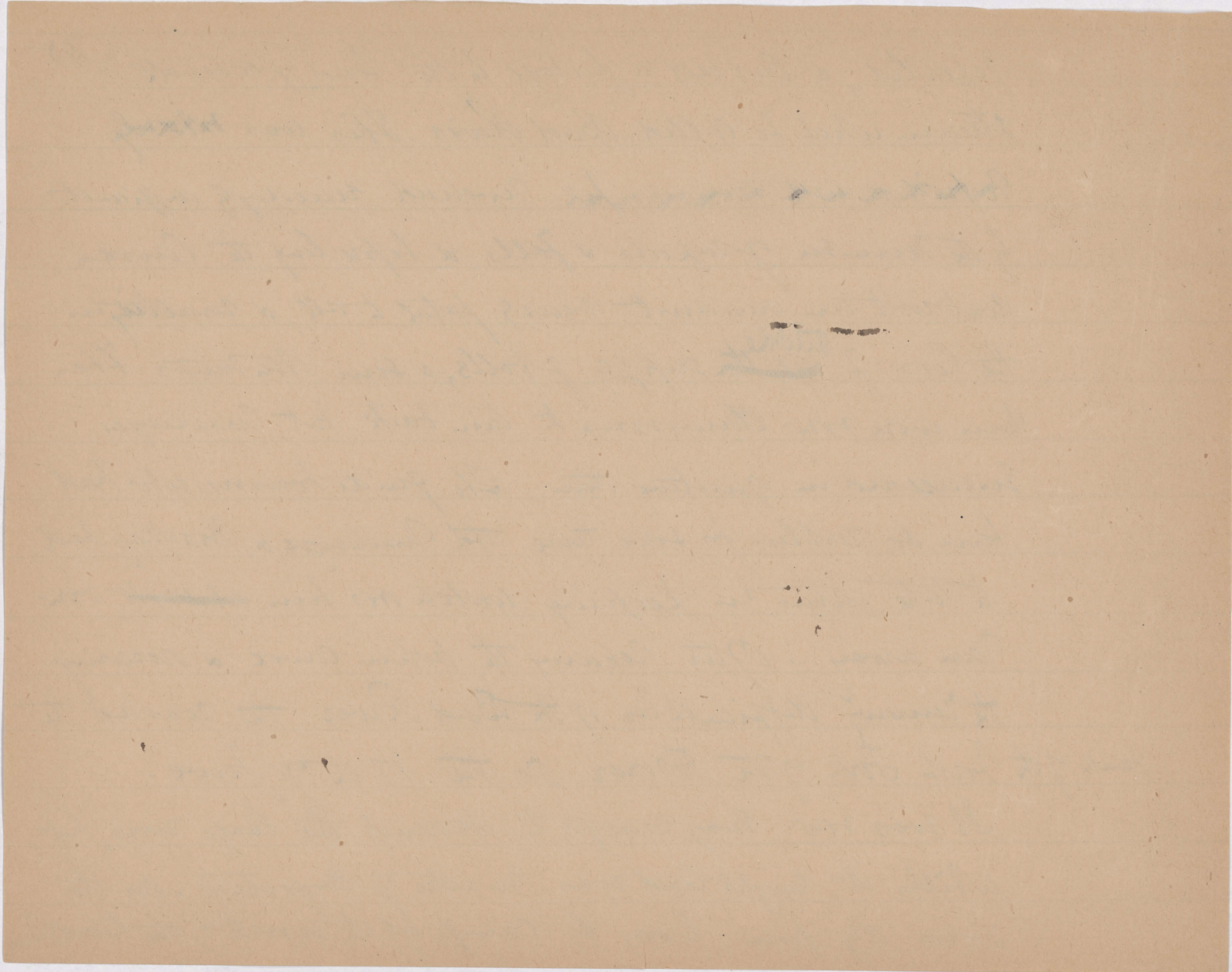


greatly discouraged by the accounts received. They said they
 were not acquainted with any great river to the westward,
 but that they had just come from another branch of the river
 on which they now were, eleven days march to the west. Here they
 traded furs & dressed skins with Indians who travel during
 a moon to reach other tribes, & that these in like manner
 extend their journeys to the Sea Coast, or as they called it - the
 "Skin Ring Lake". Hearing something favorable of another great
 stream ^{St. Lawrence}, Mackenzie pursued his enquiries, & was told that to the
 South a great river ^{it was true} existed, which flowed toward the midday
 Sun, but did not reach the Sea, & that its tributaries could
 be ^{obtained} ~~reached~~ from the head waters of the ~~St. Lawrence~~ ^{river} was now on
 Judging that this would serve his purpose, ~~he~~ ^{he} was
 now all anxiety to proceed. Taking one of the Indians as a
 guide, he ascended the Paranaip to its source - a ~~great~~ ^{royal} distance



repeated, & crossed a portage to the head of a small (45)
stream which he called Bad River. This was ~~very~~
~~rapid & not successful~~ indeed exceedingly difficult
by the number of rapids & falls, & before long the canoe
met with an accident nearly fatal to all, & resulting in
the loss of ~~all~~ ^{the whole} supply of balls, & some other things. There
was now a clamorous to turn back, but Mackenzie
succeeded in quieting them. The guide however, who had
been so restless for some time that Mackenzie & Mackay had
to take turns in keeping watch over him ~~at night~~, now
ran away. After repairing the broken canoe & overcoming
the remaining difficulties of the Bad River, they reached the
bank of the North Fork of the Fraser on the 17th of June.

It was now easy enough to descend the large river, but
whether it might lead was matter of conjecture. On the
same day from leaving the camp at the mouth of the Bad River

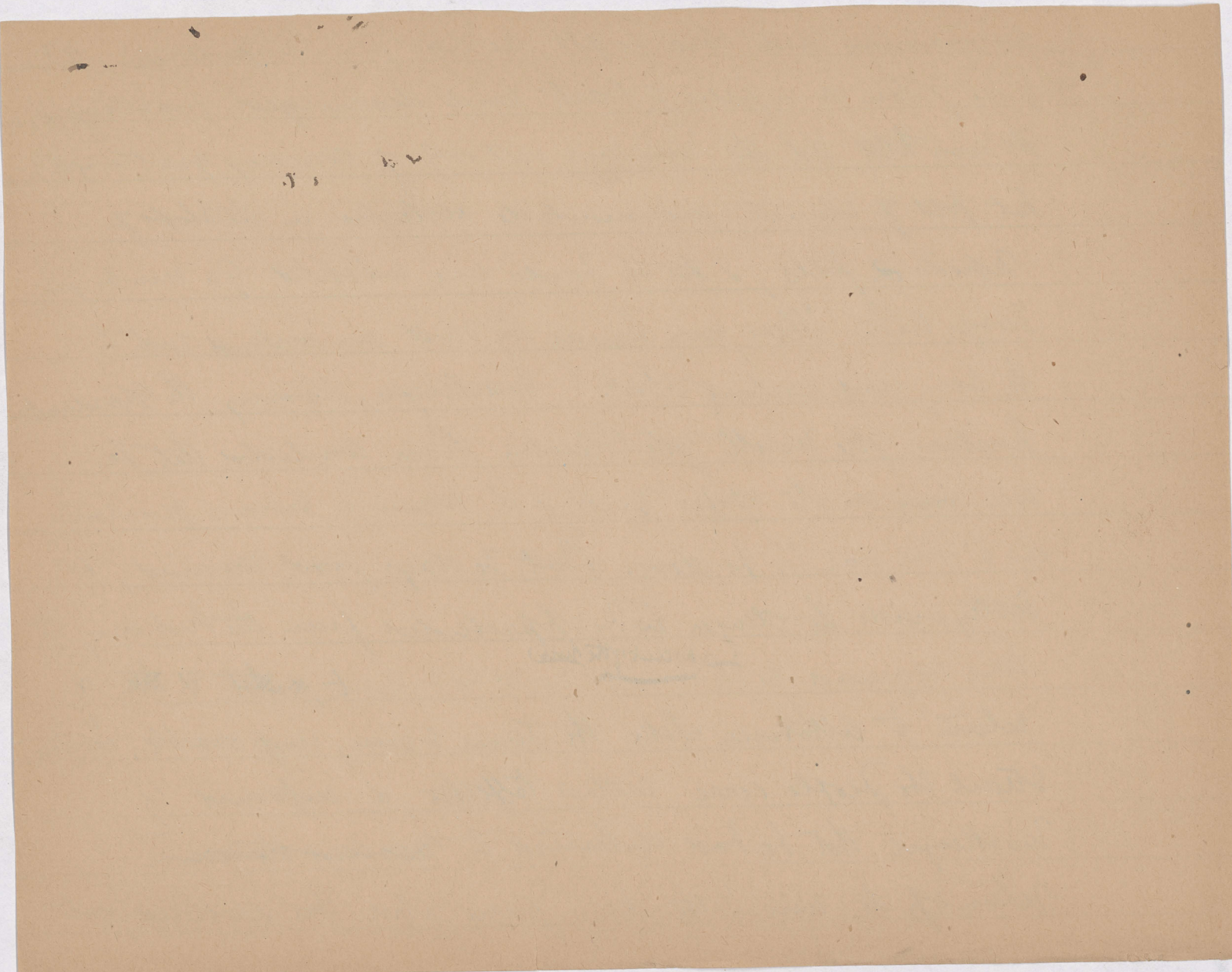


the junction of the North Fork of the Fraser, with the main stream
 from the South Fork was Reached. This Place Mackenzie speaks of
 as the Great Fork. (p. 231) His camp the first being after
 embarking ~~on the river~~ must have been not far from its mouth
 of the Selkirk River. The next day (June 19) he passed
 without observing it the mouth of the Robacco River, & shortly afterwards
 came to the rapids now known as St. George Cañon. A portage was
 here necessary, & owing to the weight of the Carve consequent on
 frequent repairs, ^{it} was a very fatiguing operation. Shortly afterwards
 a few Indians were seen, but they took to the woods & proved hostile &
 unapproachable. The next day in crossing the Cañon what is now
 known as the Cottonwood Cañon, the Carve, though light, was
 so much broken as to involve a delay of three hours. The
 day following, a number of Indians were again seen, & after
 much trouble subsided by the peaceful intentions of the party. A day

on the two
 following days

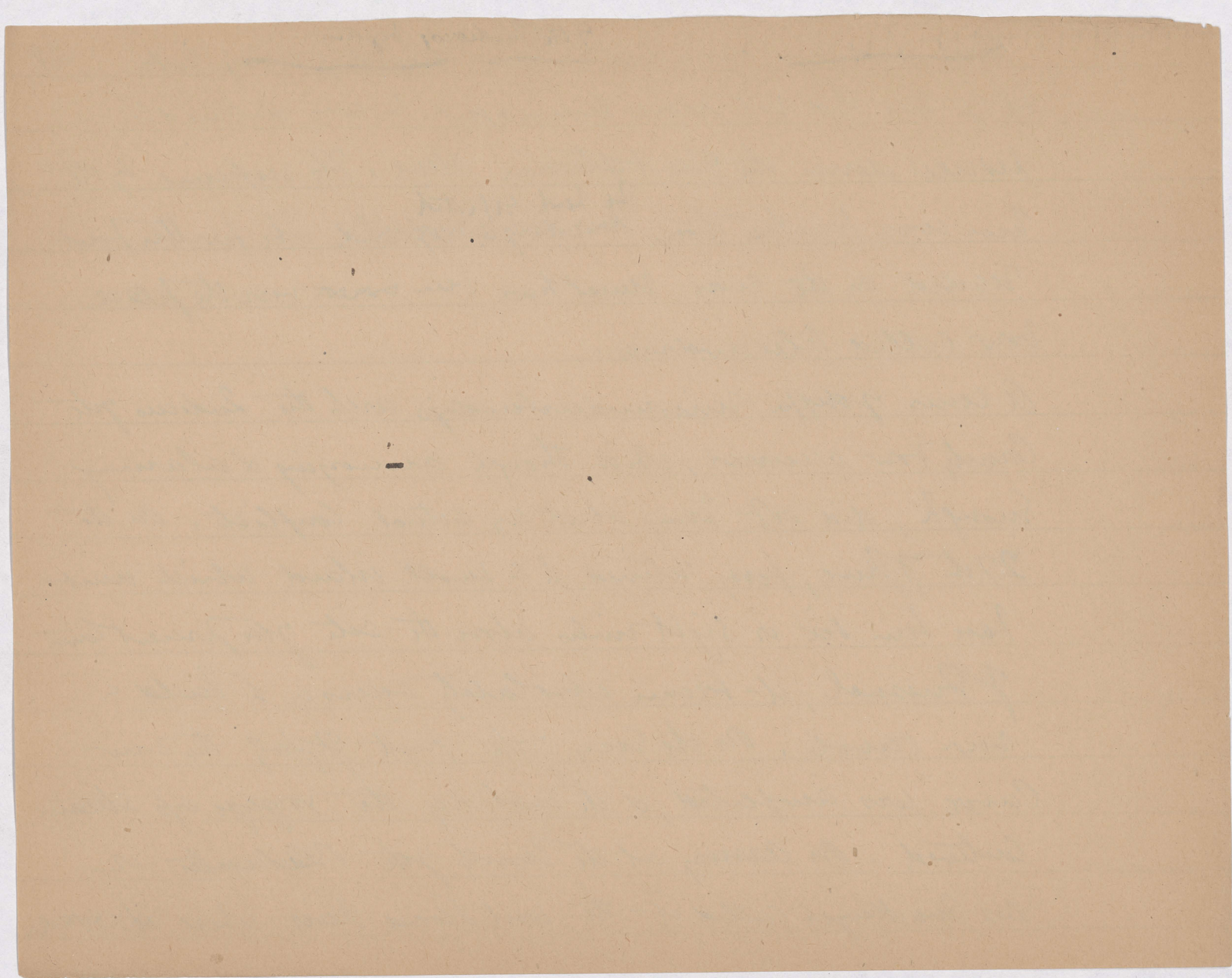
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Conversation with this People, aided by a Neepawaan 47
Years of them on a piece of bark much discharged Wackeyie.
He was told that the river was not only of exceeding great length,
but full of almost insurmountable obstacles in the shape of
rapids & falls, & that the banks were inhabited by a number of
Savage tribes. There was however they said an overland route to
the Sea, comparatively short. Wackeyie, knowing the approximate
position of the mouth of the Columbia River concluded that he
was ~~sure~~ on its upper part, & it became a serious question
as to what was to be done. But 30 days food remained, &
scarcely aside the danger to be apprehended from the Indians, the
time required for the ^{ascend of the river} ~~ascent~~ would be very great, ~~and that it was~~ a
return to Athabasca Lake the same season, impossible. So the
straggling people were called together, & informed by
Wackeyie that he had determined to descend the river
thence up the river to the place from which the overland route



~~which had been described~~ ^{by the Indians, began} ~~from~~ ^{started from}, but 48
that if this did not prove successful he was determined to
proceed down the great stream above. The response by the
men was heartier than ^{he had expected} ~~was expected~~. The further point
reached on the river must have been ~~near~~ near the place
now called Alexandria.

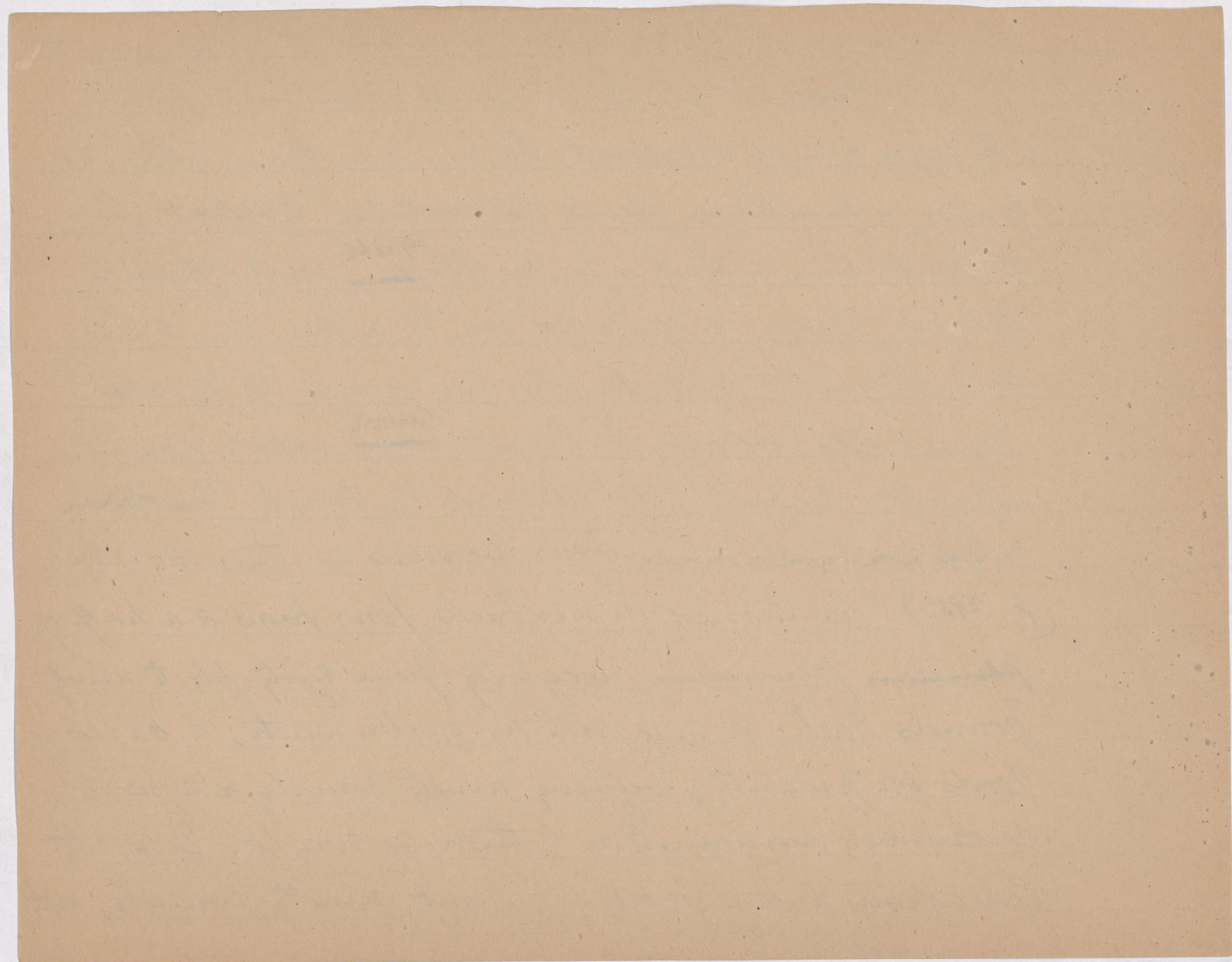
A series of ~~of~~ misunderstandings with the Indians of the
Couch now occurred, which, though annoying & alarming
enough, did not bring about any actual conflict. On the
27th of June, being returned to a small island which must
have been six or eight miles above the site of the present town
of Duessnel, it became absolutely necessary to build a
new canoe. On the evening of the first of July the new
canoe was completed, & the next day the voyage up stream
continued. On arriving at the mouth of the Blackwater or
as Wackey called it - the West River, where ~~it was~~



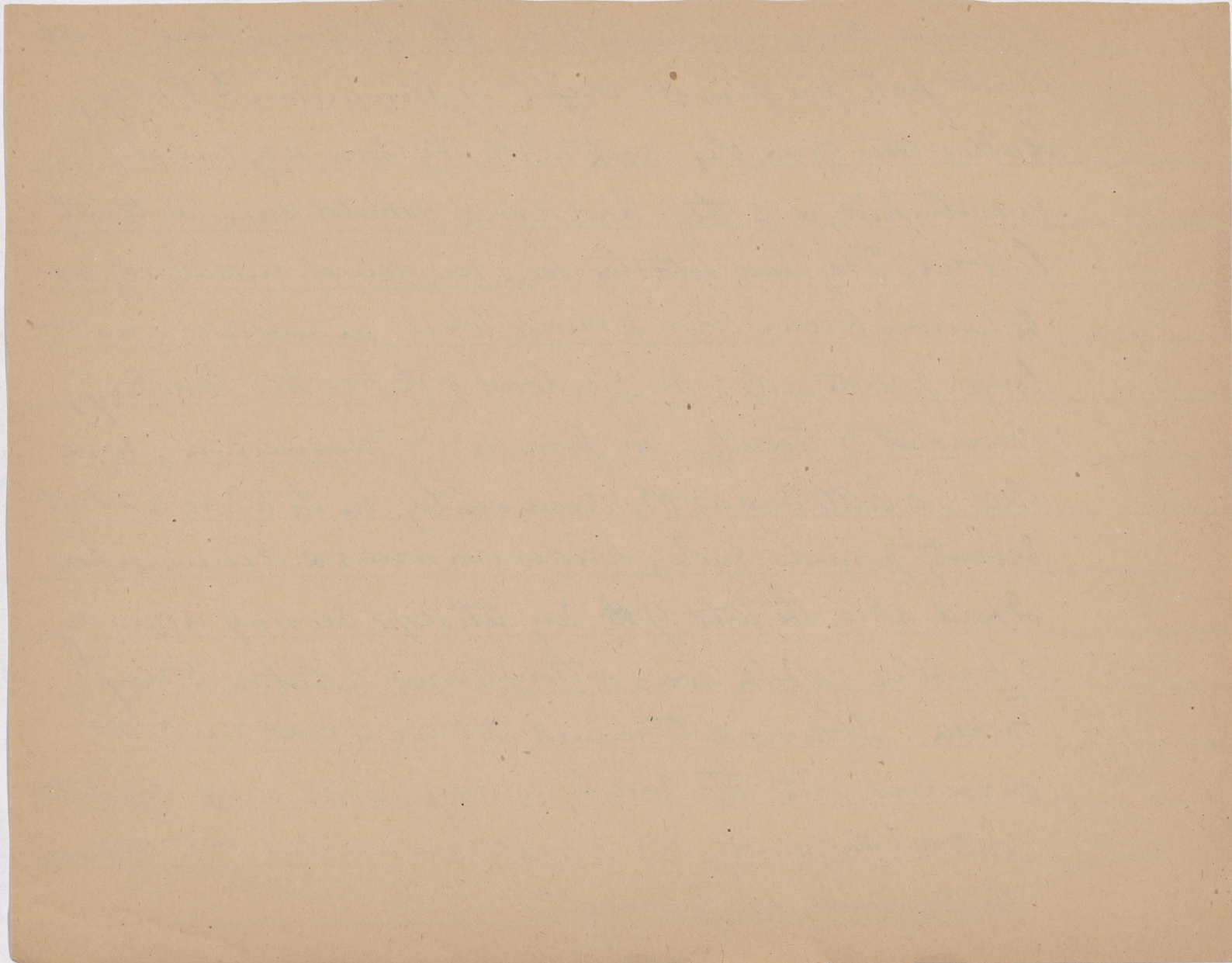
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The overland route was said to commence, the Indian who had promised to act as guide could not be found & the region seemed abandoned. The men were again taken to Council, & Mackeyes persuaded the men to set out for the coast even without a guide. The ~~man~~^{guide} staff afterwards appeared, however, & conducted them to a place several miles above the mouth of the Blackwater, where he said the trail ~~was~~ began. After taking in the ground a ~~small~~^{reserve} supply of pemmican & powder, the party took to the woods on foot. ~~From this spot is the described.~~ Their departure is thus described.

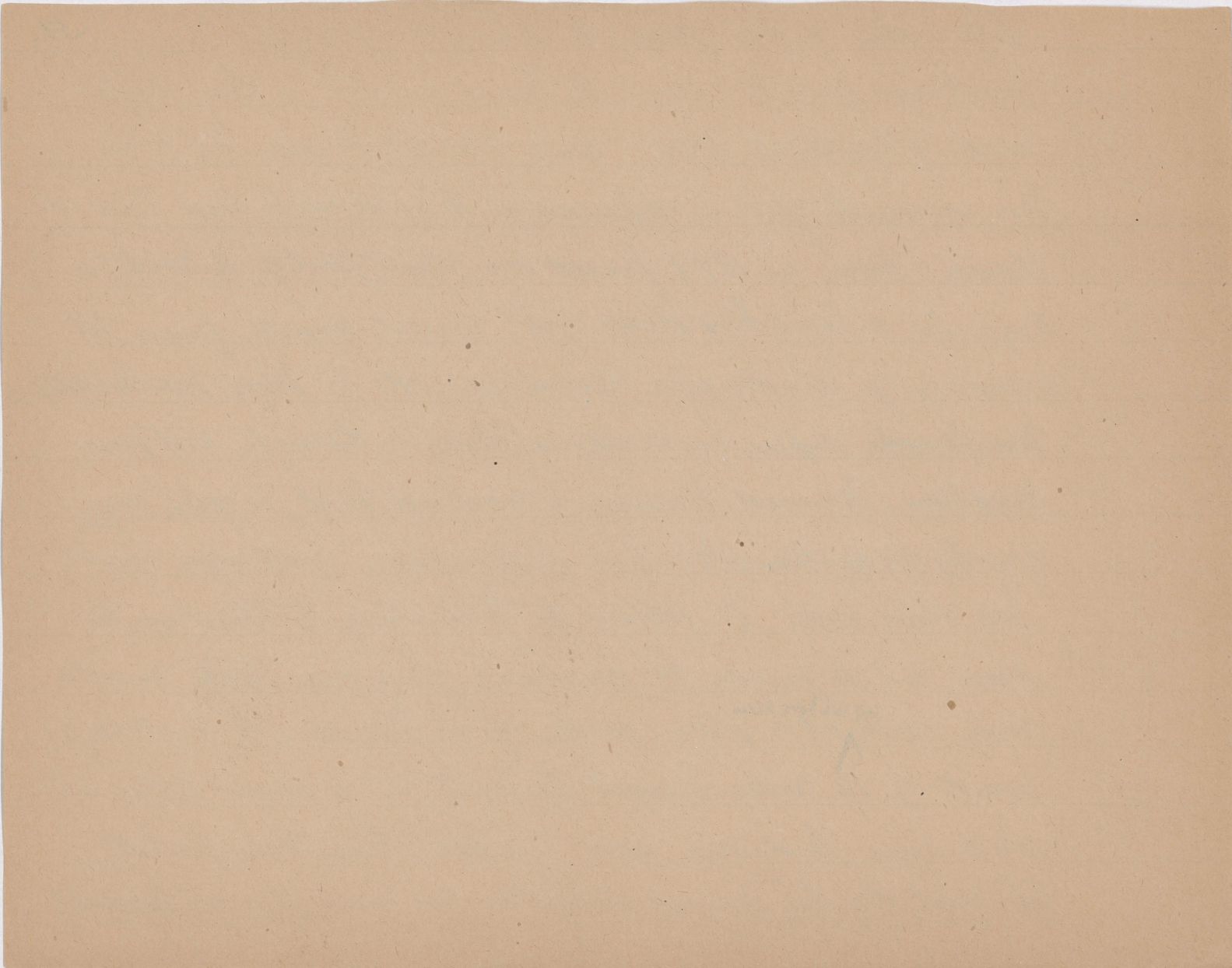
(p. 285) "We Carried on our backs four bags & a half of pemmican pemmican, weighing from eighty-five to ninety pounds each; a case with my instruments, a parcel of goods for presents, weighing ninety pounds, & a parcel containing ammunition of the same weight. Each of the Canadians had a burden of about ninety pounds, with



a gun, & some ammunition. The Indians had 50
about forty-five pounds weight of pemmican to carry,
besides their gun, &c, with which they were very much
dissatisfied, & if they had dared would have instantly
left us. They had hitherto been very much indulged, but
the moment was now arrived when indulgence was no
longer practicable. My own load & that of Mr Mackay,
consisted of twenty-two pounds of pemmican, some
rice, a little sugar &c. amounting in the whole to about
seventy pounds each, besides our arms & ammunition.
I had also the tube of ~~the~~ my telescope swung across my
shoulder, which was a troublesome addition to my
burden. It was determined that we should content
ourselves with two meals a day, which were regulated
without difficulty, as our provisions did not require
the ceremony of cooking."



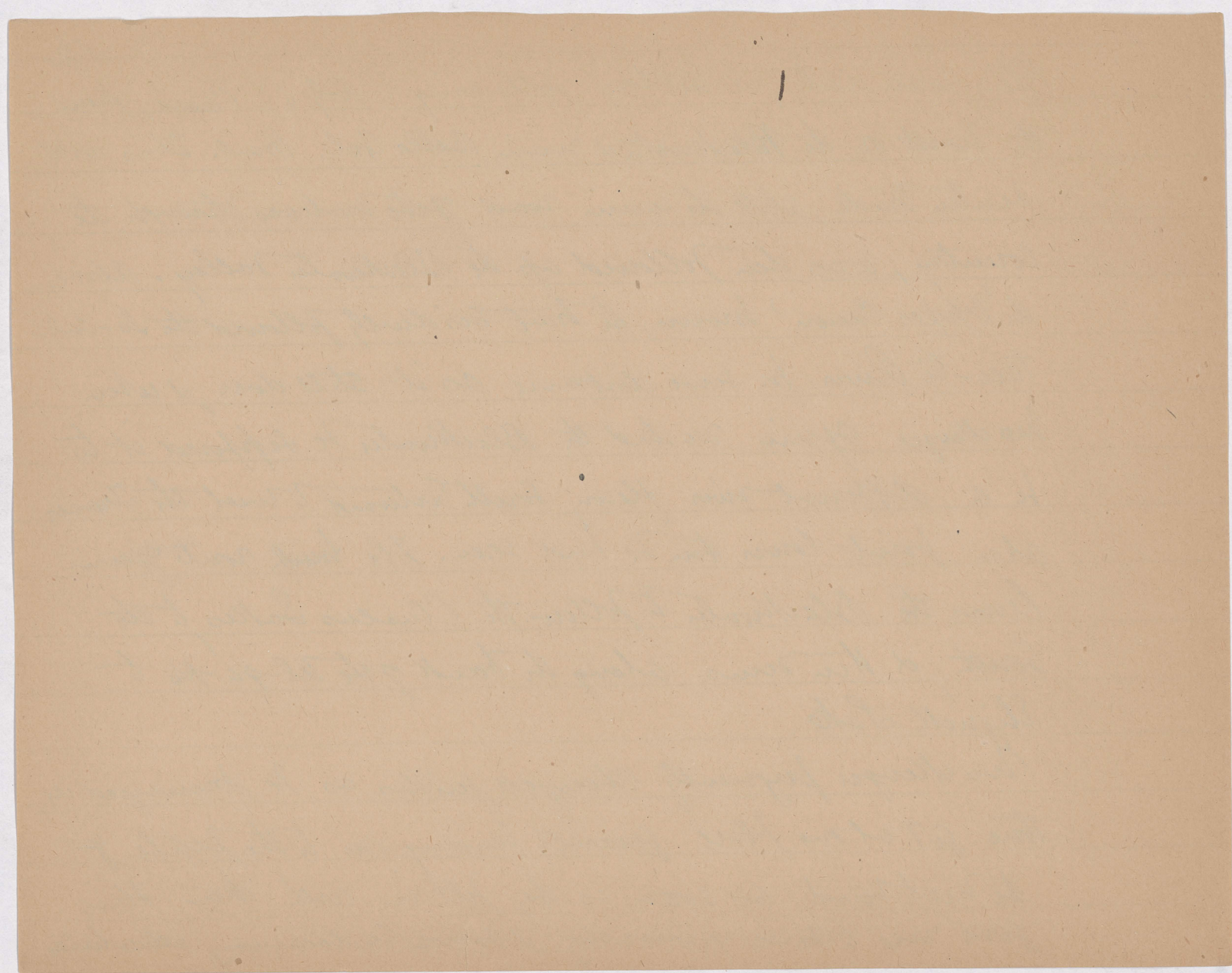
Tell within a few years the Country, through which
 Mackenzie passed from the Fraser River to the Sea at the
 head of Bentuck Arm, was scarcely known but from
 his account yet it appeared on the map as he had laid it
 down. However in 1876 passed over a great part of the route &
 acquired a local knowledge of it. I find myself, from the
 accuracy of Mackenzie's description able to place on the map
 his Camps & his camping places on the map, with few
 exceptions. Unwilling however, to overland travel, he often very
 greatly overestimates his distances. Mackenzie would
 have done better to follow the trail along the Blackwater
 River, but the guide for purposes of his own ~~work~~ made
 him land ^{as we have seen} at a place further up the Fraser. The first day's
 march of 12 miles brought the party to a small lake at
 which some Indians were camped (Pun-chaw probably)
 The next day they passed two lakes, one of which was probably



Cles-wan-Cut, of the day following (July 6) Came, from the north on the Blackwater & main Bella Coola trail. This well beaten track, still the main road of the natives through the country, was then followed up the Blackwater valley. Above the 'Upper Canon' however, the trail evidently followed the Is-cul-tas-li River for some distance as it still does, & when Mackenzie again reached the Blackwater he supposed it to be a different river flowing southward to meet the Fraser at a point lower than he had seen. The ~~trail~~ route again leaves the Blackwater to follow the Cluscus Sakes to the south & then runs along the bank of the ul-ga-ko to Eljuck Lake.

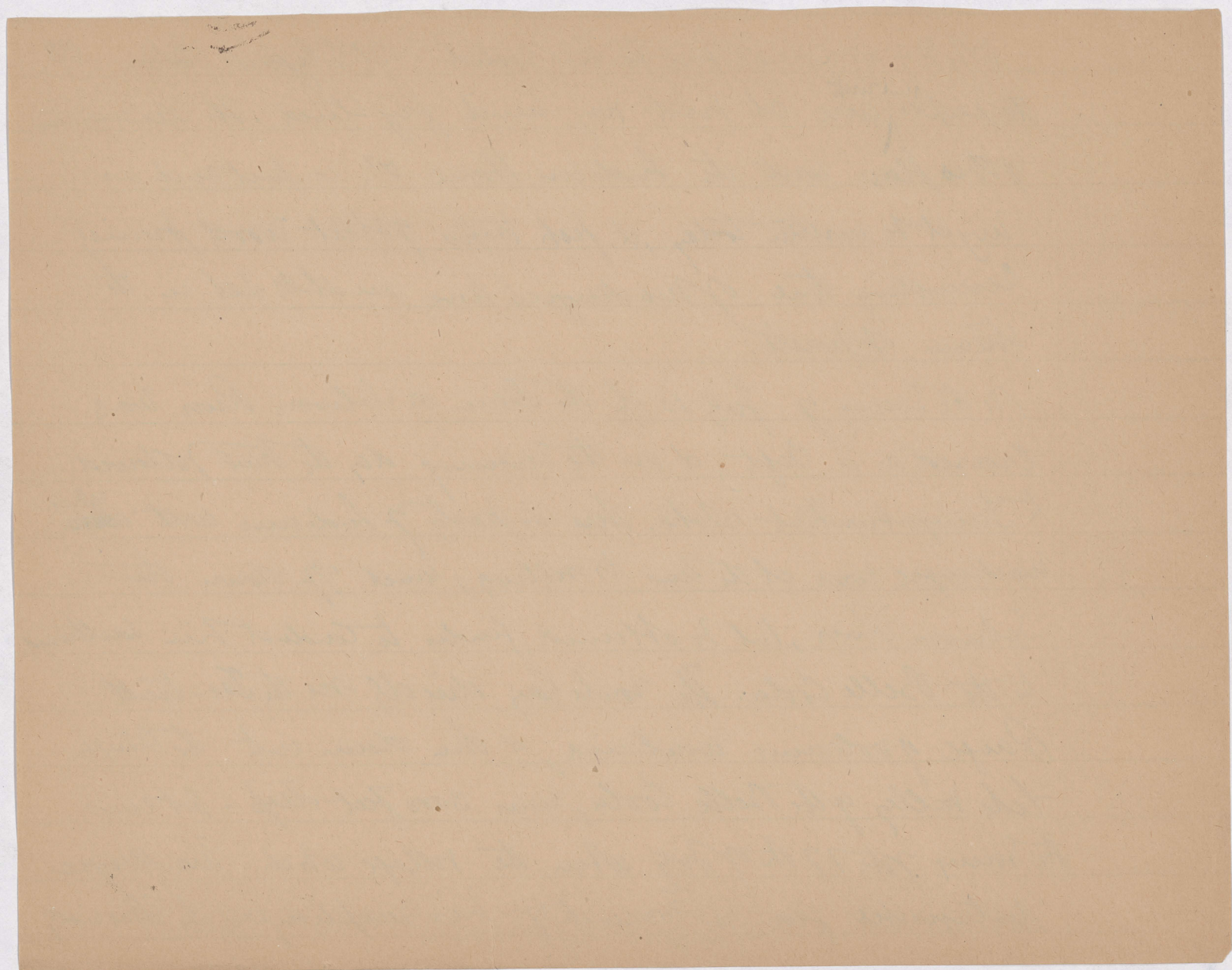
Mackenzie frequently changed guides as he proceeded on, these got at one place generally handing over to the people of the next band as soon as they fell in with them. This gave rise to some amusing & some extraordinary adventures

may work
out in
greater detail



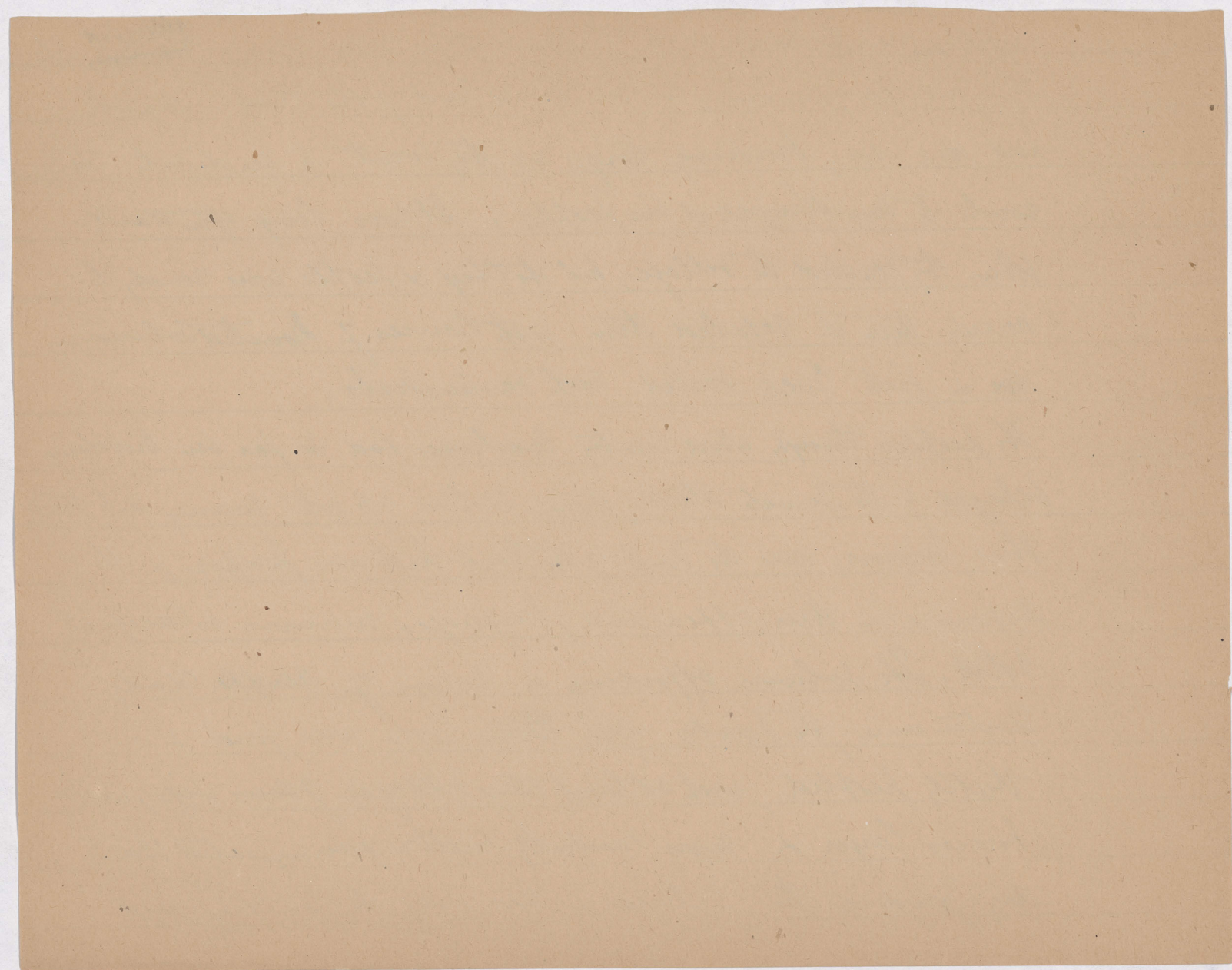
which cannot now be included. At Slepik's Lake 53,
the people ^{and with} were at first very much frightened. The description
of this place with its Indian House &c. is just such as
might be written today, & fish traps of split wood pieces
resembling those of Mackenzie's time, are still set in the
stream opposite.

On the evening of July 15th the Dean or Salmon River was
crossed on a raft, & on the running day the trail followed
to Tanyabuntkut Lake. Here the party of Indians with ~~with~~ ^{uphill}
Mackenzie was at the time travelling, turned off down the
Salmon River, but he obtained guides to conduct him southward
to the Belle Coola. The route lay directly over the Ice-catch
Range of volcanic mountains, & then down into the trough
-like valley of the Belle Coola, near 3000 feet deep. It was
the evening of the 17th of July when the village which Mackenzie
discovered from the warmth of his reception, as the Indians



Village, on the border of the Bella Coola river, was ^{abandoned} ~~blacked~~. 54
His guides, anxious to reach the end of the day's march
had gone on, breaking twigs as they went to indicate the
route to Mackenzie & his people. It was long after dark
when they reached the village, but the Chief & people were ready to
receive them & regaled them with courses of Roasted Salmon,
~~for~~ & fish & vegetables boiled with various herbs.

The peoples through whose country Mackenzie had so far been travelling
belonged to the Jewish stock, though broken up into many sub tribes.
These, however, were the part of the Coast Indians proper, & the
difference in their appearance, language & manners is carefully
noted. The salmon affording a means of ~~supply~~ ready
sustenance, the banks of the Bella Coola were found to be
thickly peopled, with at least three villages of some size, with
houses larger & more carefully built & ornamented than
any found in the interior. Besides the small ^{river} ~~river~~ ^{rapids}



Bella Coola River & Cove, on the 19th of July, Mackenzie 55-
visited a large village which he afterwards designated
the 'Pascale village' from the very unpleasant reception he
met with there on his return. For a few days spent at this
village he subsequently ascertained that Johnston of
Vancouver's party, ~~was~~ ^{then} engaged in surveying the West Coast,
had been at the same place not much more than a month
before. From this village, he writes, "I could perceive the
termination of the river & its discharge into a narrow arm
of the sea." The next day the upper part of the inlet was
examined & the ebb & flow of the tides observed. The natives,
very numerous now, began to be troublesome, but Mackenzie
determined to stay here as long as was possible &
determined to ascertain his latitude & longitude, though he
tells us that his provisions at this time were very low, consisting
of "twenty pounds of pemmican, fifteen pounds of rice, &

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six pounds of flour, among ten half-starved men, 56
in a leaky vessel, & on a barbarous coast." Having secured
his observations, a rock was inscribed with remembrance & fame
as follows, — "Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by
land; the twenty second of July, one thousand seven hundred
& ninety-three."

Following precisely the route by which they had come, the party
returned, meeting with a somewhat alarming reception among
the people of the Town of Bella Coola, so much so that the
travellers in a hure sent forth to force ~~the~~ ^{left their self control,} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the}
throwing their property into the river & proposing to take to
the mountains to avoid the Indians. Suffice it to say that
on the 24th of August the post on the Peace near the Sixty
was again reached. —

See records
S. & Clarke
p.

This was quickly accomplished the ~~transit~~ ^{North} Overland
transit of the American Continent for the first time,

2-3-

twelve years before the expedition of Lewis & Clarke
 by the Missouri. It is difficult fully to realize the
 energy & determination required by a traveller in Wackerjess
 position, in a country entirely unknown & surrounded by
 natives hostile or at least not fully to be trusted. A hundred
 times he had good reason to turn back, but he was not
 carrying out a task imposed by others, but endeavouring to
 realize his own darling project. In any history of discovery
 in North America the journey of Hearne & Wackerjess must
 be related ^{in some detail} ~~at some length~~, for ^{by} these explorations ~~of~~ the north
 & west of the Continent were really laid open, & the subsequent
 advance of explorers & establishment of posts ~~there~~
~~was~~ ~~due~~ because in comparison a matter of detail. It
 is interesting too to observe that the two great trading Companies
 who so long pursued the northern part of the continent, divide

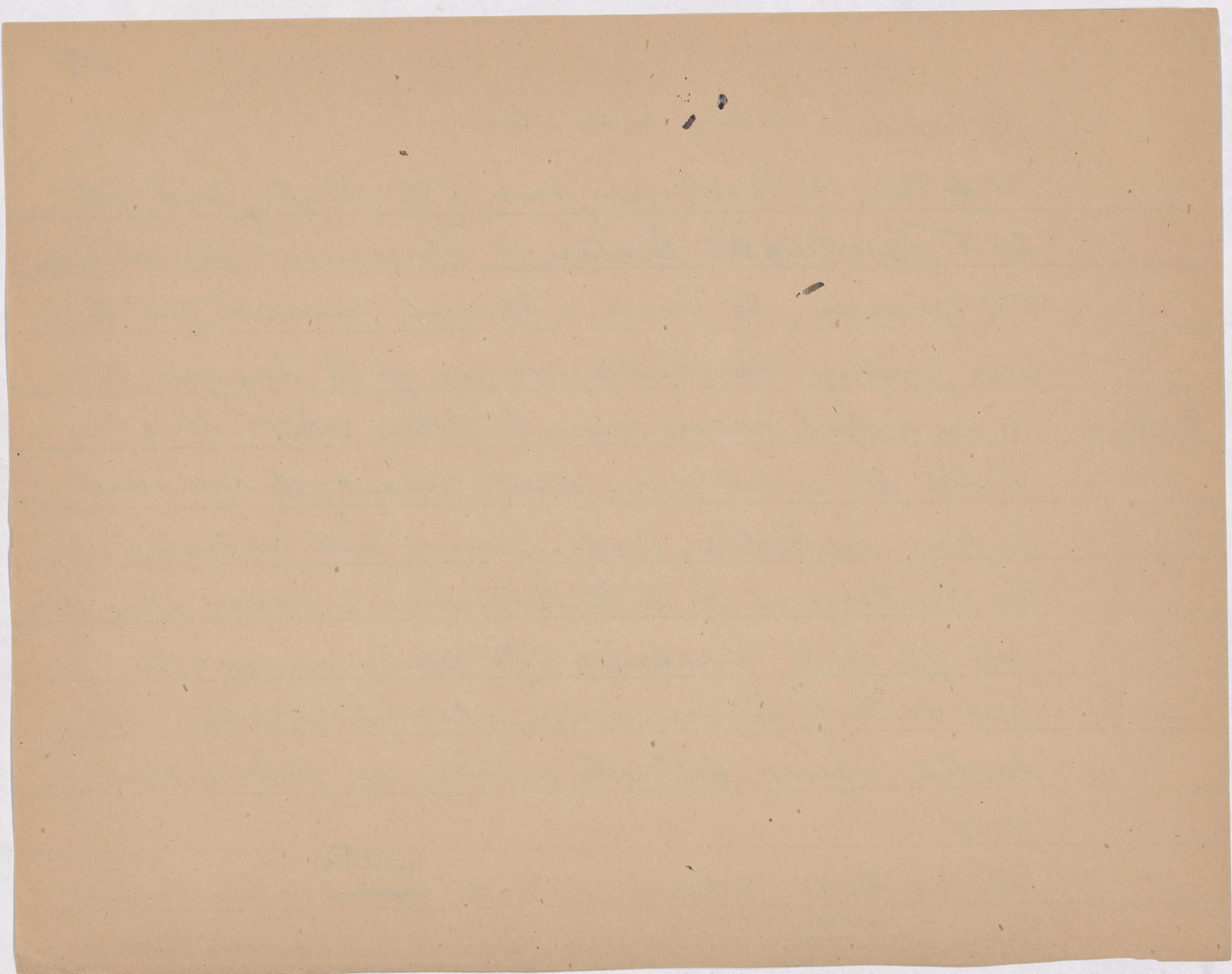
1810

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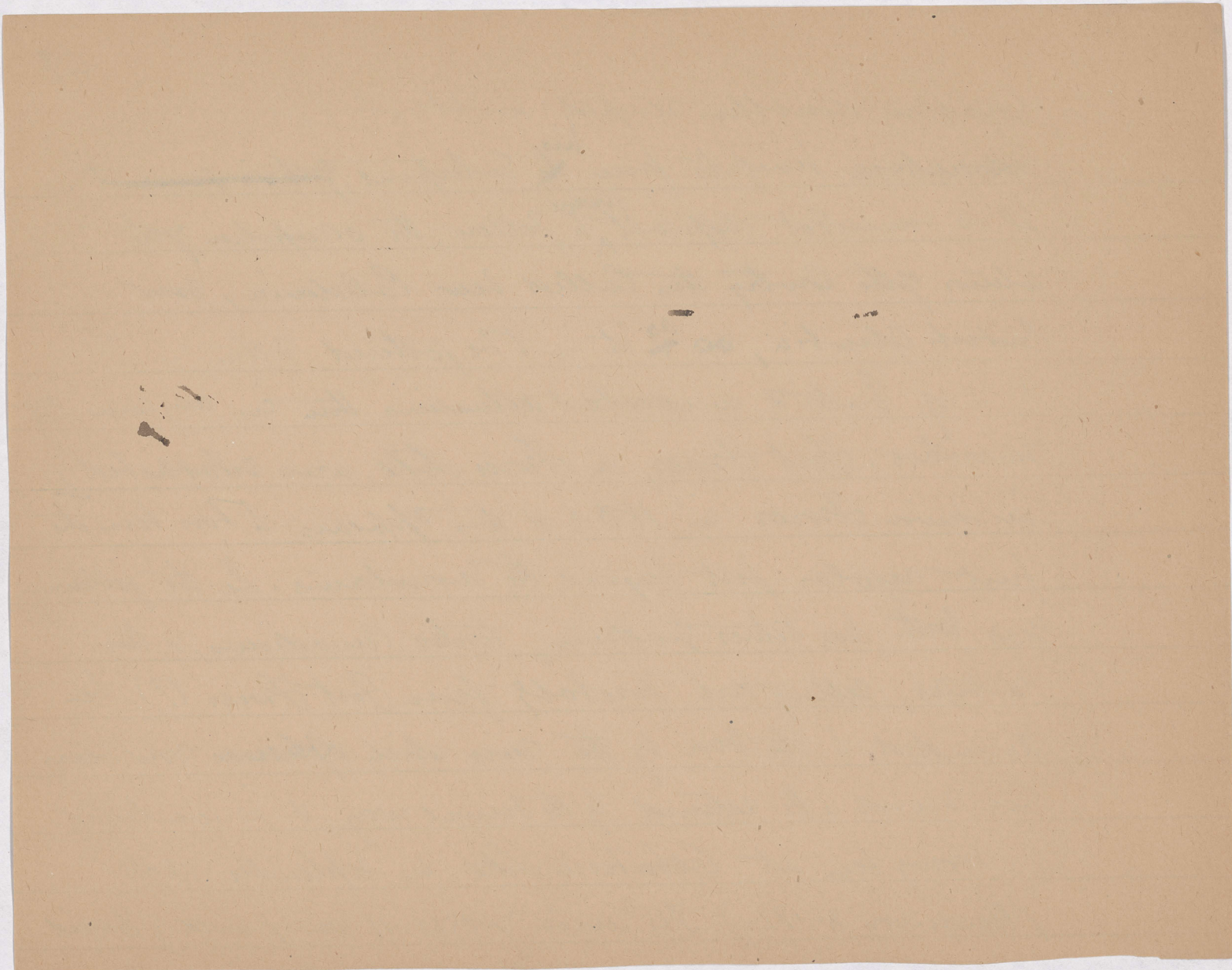
the honours of these explorations.

At the time of Mackay's journey to the Pacific, south of the 49th parallel, the territory of "Louisiana" then belonging to the Spanish, the French & Spanish residents of St Louis were pushing their trading voyages up the Missouri, but we are without precise accounts of their extent. It is also stated that in this year, another servant of the North West Company, Mr Fidler, made a journey south westward from Fort Buckingham on the Saskatchewan & travelled along the foot of the Rocky Mountains to the regions drained by the head waters of the Missouri, but of this expedition, which doubtless opened the country for trade, no details seem to exist.

The fur trade, following the route ^{indicated} of Mackay, soon ~~passed~~ ^{crossed} the Rocky Mountains, & the north west



Company doubtless reaped substantial pecuniary
~~advantages~~ benefits from ^{his} ~~the~~ Enterprise ~~of their~~ ~~service~~.
 It is somewhat difficult ^{to} follow, the occupation of the
 interior of the Country then called New California, now
 British Columbia, ~~and~~ ^{as} it is the fattered Volcan in the
 form of vents & accidental allusions then in any connected
 narrative. Fort Fraser, on Fraser Lake, was established by
 Mr Simon Fraser in 1806 & thus appears to have been the
 first regular fort beyond the mountains. In the following
 year with two other gentlemen, twelve Canadians, & two
 natives, setting out probably from Fort Fraser (?) he
 descended to the sea by the river which ~~of course~~ now bears
 his name. He returned by the same way, & is mentioned
 as having been at Albatross Lake in September 1808
 (Haremour p. 173.) The winter of 1810-11 was passed by David



(When so much geographical work in the north west is due) 60

(Franchère)
p. 225

Thompson at the head of navigation on the Cowlitz River,
a tributary of the Columbia, ~~at this place he doubtless traded~~
~~with the natives~~. In the summer of 1811, with seven Canadians

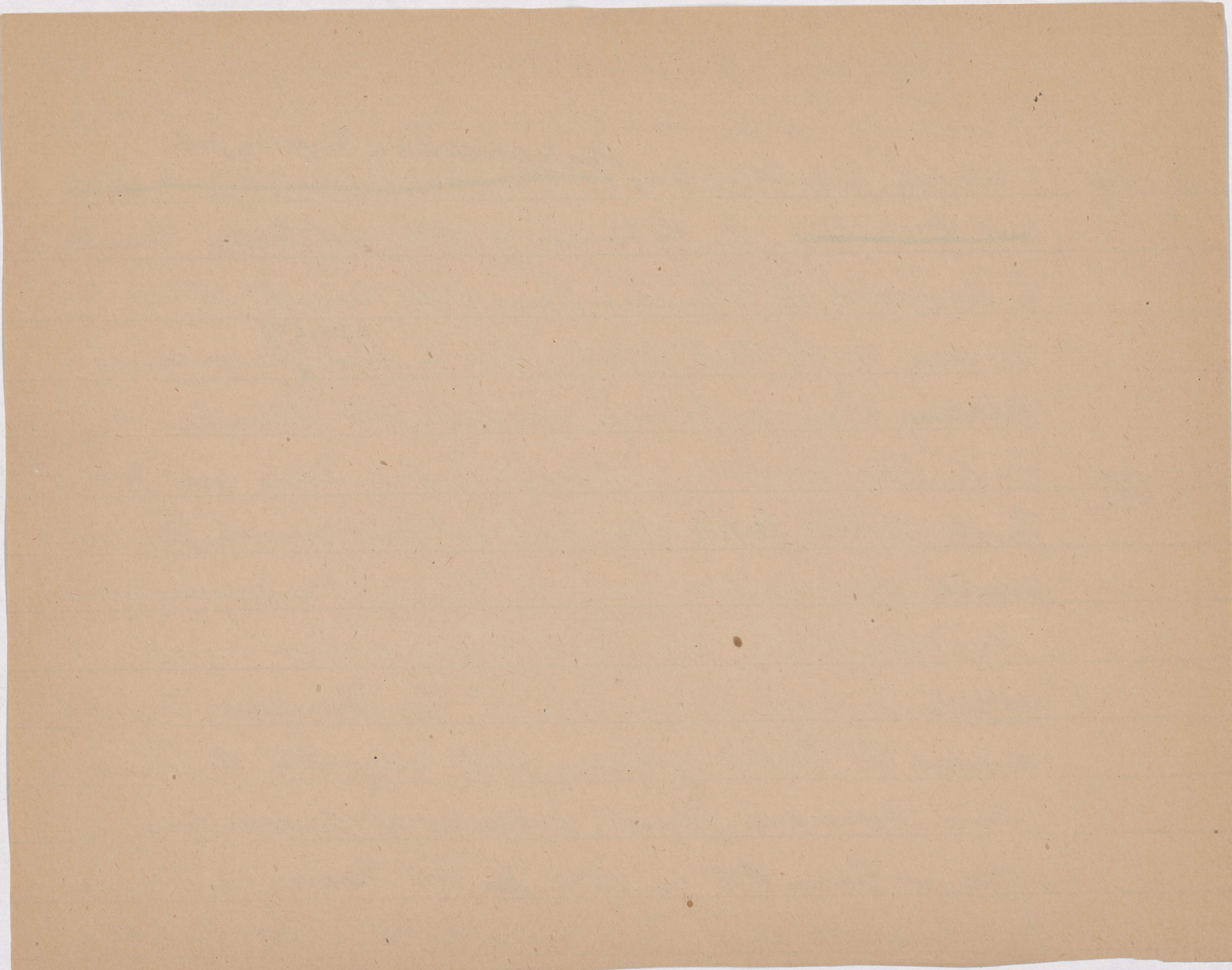
he descended the Columbia River to its mouth at which he
arrived on the 16th of July. Here he found ^{a party of} Americans,
calling whom as he says denominated themselves the

(Harmon)
p. 196

Pacific Fur Company, building a fort. There were John
Jacob Astors people who had but four months previous
~~arrived~~ disembarked from the "Tongue" & were engaged

after having doubled Cape Horn, & were engaged in founding
"Astoria" Washington Irving's "Astoria" To Thompson must be
accorded the credit of having first navigated the Columbia.

From Harmon's journal, published at Andover Mass. in
1820, we learn that in 1810, ~~from~~ Fort Fraser, after having been
for a time abandoned, was re-established, & that posts were



at the time
 also occupied by the North West Company on
 McLeod & Stuart Lakes. In ^{the winter of} 1812 Harmon made
 a short expedition to the north, extending probably at least
 to the extremity of Barren what is now known as Bobie
 Lake, as he states that he travelled with all possible expedition
 for seven days. The people he met with he calls

Nite-oto-tains the name of which the Bobie Lake Indians
 are still known. He describes them as being very numerous, &
 already acquiring ~~various~~ many articles of European
 Manufacture by trade with the ~~East~~ Indians people nearer
 the Pacific Coast.

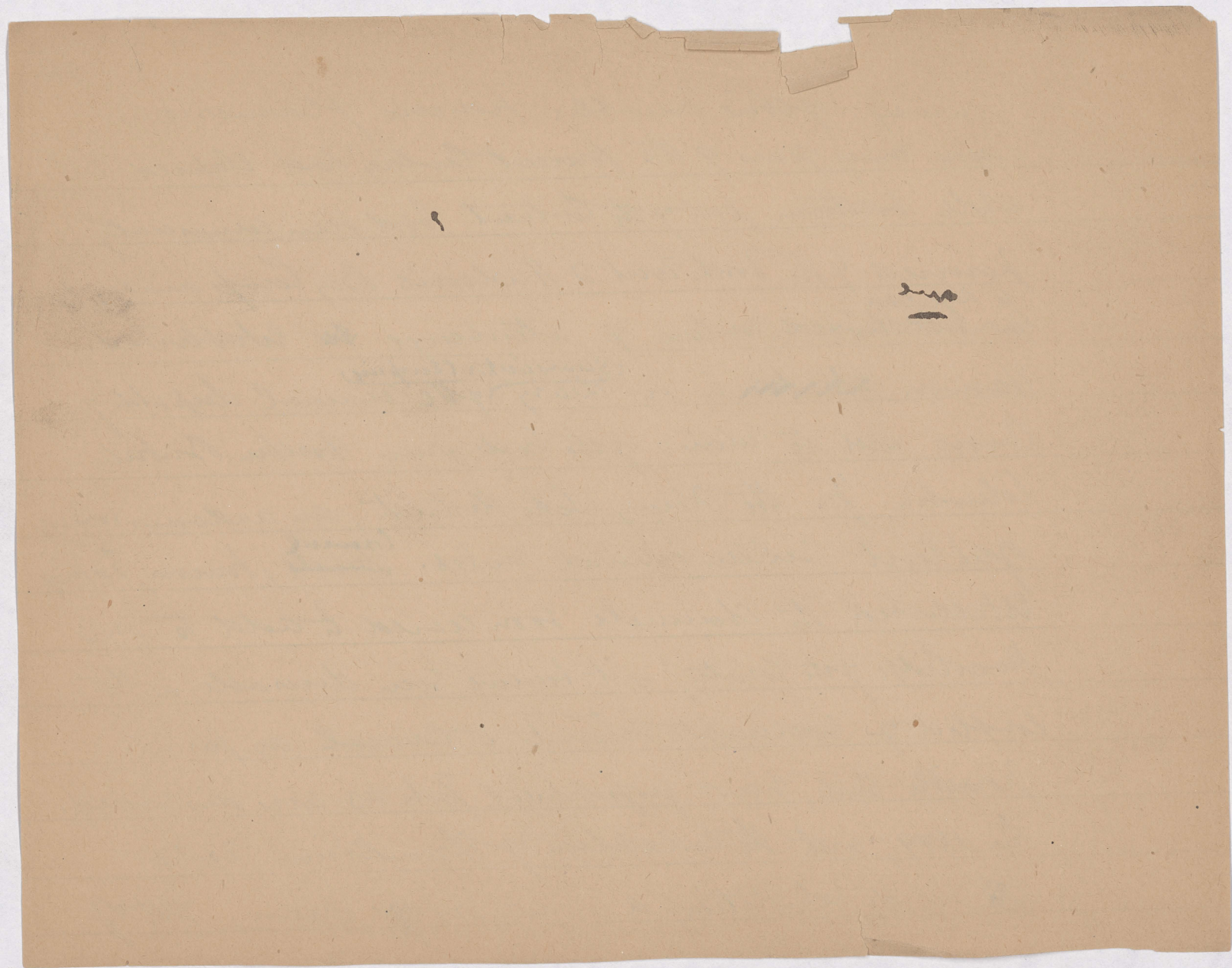
Thus little by little the course of trade was extended till
^{important} no hand of Indians ~~it~~ was without facilities for
 disposing of ~~the~~ the furs they were able to collect. It
 would be uninteresting, even if now possible, to follow the

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journeys of these humble pioneers of America.
 Before many years of the present century had elapsed the
 whole northern part of the Continent had been commercially
 traversed by the North West & Hudson's Bay Companies, &
 a regular ^{in regular} route of interchange ~~was~~ established.

Harrison ~~speaks~~ ^{Speaks without hesitating} in his diary of the annual despatch of
 Canoes with the return of the trade from Northern British
 Columbia to the Rainy Lake District, an arduous voyage
 of at least sixteen hundred miles. ^{Canoes} ~~Trade~~, however, having
 established its channels soon ceased to add to our
 knowledge of the country, & it became even desirable in the
 conflict of unscrupulous interests to conceal as far as
 possible such new geographical facts as were discovered.

In 1819, with the inception of Franklin's Arctic
~~the~~ land expedition, a new era ~~was~~ began, that of



Scientific, & more or less systematic exploration.

Into an examination of this, time does not now permit
~~me~~ to enter, or to have the ~~history~~^{course} of maritime discovery
on the North West Coast, which naturally forms a
separate Chapter in the history of the opening up of the
New World.

G. M. Dawson

April 30. 1881.

