

## JENNY PENBERTHY / Natural History

i

“the whole of my pleasure  
derived from what passed  
in my mind”

flower animal  
the sea urchin  
a sign

great birds like crows  
white with long tails  
we were nearing America

a new era of infinite knowledge  
ushered in  
man in his last

his intellectual phase  
in the great solitudes  
the human stock

ii

tamarack on the shore  
reddish soil pushed  
up from Illinois

pinkish from Labrador  
not here the river began  
in the clouds

in the mind  
imagination  
capable

of being projected  
not farther than  
40 million years

raining there  
far below  
Vermilion Lake

the sea went over  
elm, white ash  
pines in the distance

in Minnesota wild roses  
New Jersey Tea  
thimbleberry

lady-slipper on the outskirts  
of Twin Cities  
prairie phlox and honeysuckle

a week in wilderness  
road flying  
thru it

thru cut rock  
Lac Qui Parle  
the past in mind

reasonable to suppose that  
the changing  
the going

out of the nature of things  
according to the theme  
masses of lupine, otherwise

a barren stretch of road  
thick carpet  
of reindeer moss

lichens, very beautiful  
as the season shifts  
“We were Cesars

nobody to contradict us”  
the face of the earth  
a graveyard

a lake, Plantagenette  
water fowl shot  
the mallard, wood-duck, sawbill

at Traverse des Sioux  
Chief Sleepy Eyes  
signed away 30 million acres

unmurmuringly  
a life of want and vicissitude  
under the enlivening

influence  
of a song

iii

St. Croix R. Leaf R.  
Scalp L. Fish-line L.  
Ottetail L.

Sibly L.  
Le Corbeau R.  
(Crow-Wing)

"Rose at 4  
on the shore  
several fine

specimanes  
of carnelian and agate"  
Thompsonite—

an orbicular  
—eye-gleam—  
dark green

and pink mineral  
the heyday of corals  
Obsidian is not

always black  
cinder-black  
onyx, sardonyx, chert

momentary equilibrium  
lapis in limestone  
Know stones?

Never mind  
the polished  
black

with the lace in it  
Fast-moving out  
of slow geologic time

this day's  
century