

so frozen as to hinder their return by sea, and by land it was too rugged and mountainous to be attempted; so that they were obliged for this time to give over all farther thoughts of deer hunting, and apply themselves to making their habitation as warm and compact as circumstances would admit. For this purpose, they agreed to make a lesser tent within the great one, and were supplied with deal boards, posts, and rafters, from a small one built in the neighbourhood of the other, for the reception of the company's oil. The chimnies of the furnaces furnished them with bricks, and by good fortune they found four hogheads of fine lime, which mixed with the sea sand, made an excellent cement.

While two of the company were employed in building a wall of the thickness of one brick within the great tent against the inner planks, all the rest laboured at their different appointments; for while one pulled down the chimnies, another cleaned the bricks, and a third carried them in baskets to the masons; on the other hand, one was employed in tempering the mortar, a second forming the boards, and another curing venison. As their bricks only served to raise two sides of the new building, they were obliged to make the other two of wood; accordingly they erected their posts, which were a foot in diameter, at proper distances one from another, and nailed boards on each side, so that the middle was a hollow, which they filled up with lime and sand rammed in as hard as possible, whereby the air was effectually kept out, and the place made surprizingly warm.

The whole was covered with deals, interlining each other five or six times, and leaving not the smallest chink open; the chimney was a vent into the greater tent, which served them at the same time by way of window; for they had removed a few tiles from the top, and made thereby a hole that admitted light, and gave passage to the smoke. The door they lined with deer skins, that when it was shut, quite stopped up all the cracks.

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