

We were therefore obliged to make a fire, and remain here; and the thaw continuing till the 11th, made us very apprehensive lest the ice should give way altogether: for the spring was now too far advanced to travel any longer upon the snow, unless during a frost. We should then have been under the necessity of waiting till the ice was entirely cleared off the lake; which would have taken at least a fortnight or three weeks from the time of its breaking up, and might have been reduced to a condition equally distressed with that we had been in after our shipwreck, except that we were provided with arms and ammunition.

However the frost returned on the 12th, and the next day we set off, and travelled about six leagues, sometimes on floating pieces of ice, and at others in our canoe, where the lake was open. On the 14th our provisions being nearly exhausted, I proposed going in search of some game, as the country abounded with moose deer: for the Indians in general never