

the cold was very severe, the thermometer occasionally falling to 35° below zero. During this season of intense cold, we frequently observed the phenomenon of showers of snow falling in minute particles, when the sun was shining brightly, and not a cloud to be seen in the heavens. We had now some foretaste of the hardships we afterwards suffered on our journey across the mountains. As we were unable to obtain supplies of provisions from the fort, the stores there not containing sufficient for the necessities of their own people, we were compelled, at the beginning of December, to send our two men with dogsleighs to Red River Settlement, 600 miles distant, to obtain flour and tea. During the three months they were absent on this journey, we had only an Indian and his boy for our attendants; and most faithful and useful servants they proved. We had to be almost incessantly on the move, travelling to the plains through the deep snow in snow shoes, in order to kill buffalo for our subsistence, which we transported to our winter quarters on dogsleighs. The meat was speedily consumed, by the help of starving Indians around us; and another toilsome journey, with its attendant disagreeables of camping in the open air in the snow and bitter cold, and driving trains of refractory dogs, became almost immediately necessary. Occasionally we were driven to satisfy our hunger by eating exceedingly nauseous food, such as musk-rats, marten minks, fishers, and otters. On the 11th of March our men returned, much exhausted by their hard travelling, bringing but little flour, having been compelled, by the scarcity of provisions on the way, to live principally upon it themselves, and also feed the dogs with it for a considerable part of the time.

The first week in April the thaw set in; and we forthwith abandoned our log hut, and returned to Carlton, and thence proceeded westward, along the North Saskatchewan by Fort Pitt to Edmonton. Before proceeding further with the account of our journey, I must allude very briefly to the magnificent country which extends from Red River almost to the base of the Rocky Mountains. It has been well described by Captain