

which we did without other noise than what was occasioned by our teeth. The maize was not half boiled, and it took me an hour to consume my share. I was requested not to break the spikes, as this would be displeasing to the departed spirits of their friends.

When all was eaten, Wawatam made another speech, with which the ceremony ended. A new fire was kindled, with fresh sparks, from flint and steel; and the pipes being smoked, the spikes were carefully buried in a hole made in the ground for that purpose, within the lodge. This done, the whole family began a dance, Wawatam singing, and beating a drum. The dance continued the greater part of the night, to the great pleasure of the lodge.—The night of the feast was that of the first day of November."

The chief animals which the North Americans kill are those whose furs are the most valuable; among the first of which ranks the Beaver. They are peculiarly careful to preserve the breed of these in the rivers and lakes which they frequent within the limits of their hunting grounds; for wherever the Indians discover a lake or river in which there are beaver, they never extirpate the whole from the place, but leave a male and female to preserve the breed. It is to be regretted that of late years, since the British began to interfere in killing beaver they have not pursued the same preservative system, and the consequence has been as might be expected. The beaver are completely extirpated from many places, which they were formerly known to frequent in abundance. So many accounts of this singular animal have been written by travellers, that a recapitulation of them here is unnecessary. The following additional particulars of the beaver and account hunting related by Mr. Henry, from his own observation and from the account given him by the Indians may not however be considered uninteresting: as some of the facts have escaped the notice of many natural historians, as far as we recollect.

"To kill beaver, we used to go several miles up the rivers, before the approach of night, and after the dusk came on, suffer the canoe to drift gently down the current, without noise. The beaver, in this part of the evening, come abroad to procure food, or materials for repairing their habitations; and as they are not alarmed by the canoe, they often pass it within gun-shot.

"While we thus hunted along our way, I enjoyed a personal freedom of which I had long been deprived, and became as expert in the Indian pursuits, as the Indians themselves.

"The beaver feeds in preference on young wood of the birch, aspen and poplar-tree;\* but, in defect of these, on any other tree, those of the pine and fir kinds excepted. These latter it employs only for building its dams and houses. In wide meadows, where no wood is to be found, it resorts, for all its purposes, to the roots of the rush and water-lily. It consumes great quantities of food, whether of roots or wood; and hence often reduces itself to the necessity of removing into a new quarter. Its house has an arched dome-like roof, of an

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\* *Populus nigra*, called by the Canadians, *liard*.