

4. *Boats, Sledges, &c. of the Northern Indians.*

bellies of their dams, are greedily devoured by the Northern Indians; and Mr. Hearne, and other Europeans, who have eaten of them, agree, that they are to be reckoned among the choicest delicacies. From dishes of this sort, a kind of proverb is known in the northern settlements, that, "whoever wishes to know what is good, must live with the Indians."

*Of the Boats, Sledges, Tents, and Employments of the Northern Indians.*

The Northern-Indian canoe bears some resemblance to a weaver's shuttle, being flat-bottomed, with straight upright-sides, and sharp at each end, but the stern is by far the widest part, as there the baggage is generally laid, and occasionally a second person, who always lies down at full length in the bottom of the canoe. These vessels are about twelve or thirteen feet in length, two feet broad in the widest part, and are managed with a single paddle.

The sledge is made of different sizes, from eight to twelve feet in length, and from twelve to sixteen inches wide. The boards of which the sledges are composed are not more than a quarter of an inch thick, and seldom exceed five or six inches in width, as broader would be unhandy for Indians to work, who have no other tools than an ordinary knife, turned up a little at the point. The boards are sewed together with thongs of parchment, deer-skin, and several cross bars of wood are sewed on the upper side, which serve both to strengthen the sledge and secure ground-fashing, to which the load is always fastened by other small thongs.

To pitch the tent of an Indian in winter, it is first necessary to find a dry level piece of ground, which is ascertained by thrusting a stick through the snow down to the earth, all over the proposed part. The snow is