

After a rest of four days, it was agreed on to leave the elderly people and young children here, in the care of some Indians, till the return of their relations from the fort. Matters being thus settled, they set out on the 11th, at a much brisker pace than before; and in the afternoon of the same day, overtook some more Indians laden with furs.

The 12th was so warm, and the water so deep on the top of the ice, as to render walking on it, not only unpleasant, but dangerous. It was, therefore, found necessary to construct their canoes without delay; and this business being accomplished by the 18th, they proceeded through swamps of mud, water, and wet snow, which froze to their stockings and shoes in such large crusts, as to render travelling very laborious, and to expose them to the danger of having their limbs frost-bitten.

The weather, on the 21st, was so sharp, that the swamps and ponds were once more frozen over; and they found