

were now safely ensconced. It would take a very sharp eye to detect the entrance, besides this, even though the water were deeper, was not the bed of clams that SNAPPER had figured would keep himself and his family all winter, still there and well concealed.

As an extra precaution against prowling marauders SNAPPER dug a long gallery from his house proper, that came to the surface of the ground beside a hollow stump many yards away in the bush, so that in the event of his being attacked by weasel or mink he could chase his family into this gallery, and as the gallery just fitted him and no enemy could get behind him, back up fighting until they had got to safety out of the gallery and down a tunnel under the snow into the water. Then, when he was sure they were safe he would pull down the chunk that blocked the gallery between himself and his adversary, follow them into the water and to the concealed air hole at which they would be waiting. However, it would be a very powerful opponent that would attack both SNAPPER and his wife at the one time and generally, if once defeated, he would not return.

For a week nothing happened. SNAPPER and his wife making regular trips to the clam bed for clam, bringing them up to the little platform of roots in front of their house, breaking the shells open and devouring the contents, till one morning on looking out he discovered that the level of the water in the lake had, during the night, lowered a matter of six or eight inches,