

Having got to the north side of this lake on the 30th, every arrangement was made for facilitating the execution of the scheme. Most of the women and children were to be left under the care of some Indians, with orders to proceed to the northward at their leisure, and to wait the return of the party from the Copper River, at a place appointed. Matonabee took only two of his youngest wives with him, who were lightly laden; and indeed, it was agreed on, that no one in the party should carry more ammunition, or other articles, than was absolutely necessary for the occasion.

The women expressed great sorrow at parting, and the chief was obliged to use all his authority to keep his part of them from following him. Their yells were most piteous, as long as they were within hearing; while the Indians walked on with a gay indifference, seldom thinking of those they left behind, or confining their whole regard to their younger children.