

dom, though the natives residing in the vicinity of the Forts often apply to the wives of our servants to tint the quills with imported dye-stuffs.

The Rabbit.—(*Lepus Americanus*).

This animal, so essential to the welfare of the Chipewyan nation, is spread all over the District, except upon the barren-grounds. It is subject to periodical failures, which occur with great regularity, and which cause no small amount of privation and suffering to the Indians, when they happen. When the animals are numerous, the Tinné tribes of the McKenzie valley subsist altogether on them, and the skins furnish almost entirely their winter clothing—robes, shirts, capotes, mittens, and socks being made, which afford a sufficient protection against the most severe cold, though they do not form lasting garments, as the hair falls out very quickly.

The Moose.—(*Alces Americanus*).

Is found, in greater or lesser numbers, throughout the wooded portions of the District. Its food consists of the coarse grass of the swamps, and the shoots of various kinds of willows. It produces from one to two at a birth. In size it is rather larger than a horse, and a buck in its grease will weigh as high as 800 lbs. without the offal. When in good condition the flesh is sweet and tender, and is highly esteemed as an article of food, but should the animal be poor, or have been subjected to violent exertion previously to death, the meat is scarcely eatable. The nose or *moufle* is considered by some the greatest delicacy of the Northwest, contesting the palm with Bear's paw, Beaver tail, Reindeer tongue, Buffalo boss, and Sheep ribs. The Indians sometimes snare the Moose; and in the spring, when the action of the sun has formed a thick crust upon the snow, they drive them into drifts and spear them in numbers. It is not a gregarious animal, and to hunt it requires more skill than is necessary in the pursuit of either Reindeer or Buffalo. In the winter, for some time before the hunter comes on his chase, he removes his snow-shoes, and despite the thermometer many degrees below zero, sometimes takes off his leggins; he then makes his approach cautiously, cutting such twigs of willows as may be in his way, with his teeth, and avoiding when possible, dry brush, and fallen timber. As the slightest unusual sound is sufficient to frighten this animal, the chosen period for hunting it is during the continuance of a heavy gale of wind. During the rutting season, which happens in the fall,