

XVI.

J N P J A N C A M P.

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THE Indians call their home in the woods "A Camp," although it may consist of but one hut. In parts at all frequented for sporting purposes a camp will be found ready made, as your temporary shelter is always left untouched for the next comer, with the exception of the canvas covering, which of course you take away with you. Should you go to an untried part of the country, your camp-keeper will soon erect a secure shelter against the piercing cold, and keen winds.

A few young pine trees, shorn of their branches and cut the same length, are piled together, thin ends meeting, the thick ones pointed and stuck in the ground, enclosing a space of about ten feet in diameter. A long pliant sapling is then procured, made into a hoop, and introduced inside the pile. This is raised until it touches the poles all round, when it is securely bound, and a strong bar of wood—generally Indian pear—fastened across to hang the chain or hook for your kettle. This bar should be about five feet from the ground. The skeleton of your house is now complete, and nothing remains but to wrap the canvas round the outside, leaving a small aperture at the top to form a chimney. Three sides of an oblong square are next described with logs in the inside of the hut to form a clear space for the fire. The fourth side is the doorway, and the space between the logs and the wall is filled with young spruce branches, and covered with blankets to form couches. Should you come unprovided with the canvas-wrap mentioned, the Indians soon find a substitute by peeling the bark off birch trees, and fastening it outside your hut with pointed pieces of wood or tin tacks.

The camp-keeper always remains in camp, keeping guard, cutting wood, preparing meals, besides generally managing to catch a fish or two for your supper. Tea is almost the only beverage in the woods on account of its portability.