

But Hai-dah had been the wife of a white trapper who had despised dirt and vermin, and accordingly she saw that the dwelling of her father was thoroughly scraped and cleaned each year when they left it, and before entering for the winter green boughs of the cedar were thickly interlaced on wall and bench before the skins and blankets were hung around, for no vermin will lodge where the smell of the cedar penetrates.

The trunk of an immense tree in which notches have been cut is securely planted near the centre of the floor, smaller saplings meet at the top of it, where they are fastened, the other ends resting on the earth around the hole, thus forming a support for the roof. These are strongly bound together at the apex by means of green roots, thongs and cedar rope, for should this give way the whole roof structure would fall in upon those beneath. On these poles is first placed the skin tent covering, with other skins and blankets, then more green boughs of spruce and cedar, then a covering of moss, all held in place with a little earth, till the snow comes and fills every interstice, keeping everything snug and warm.

Thus an Indian village, or ranch-a-rie, during this season, looks like a succession of mounds, with numerous well-trodden paths leading hither and thither.

The apex we have noted is not covered in ; thus the ends of the poles stand up bare above the dwelling, and from hence escapes the smoke of the fire which is made in a hole some four feet square, and about one foot in depth.