

The thaws now commenced, and from the latter end of March to the middle of April, they were considerable about noon; but it commonly froze at night, and walking was by no means pleasant. The moose deer now began to become very scarce. On the 12th of April, they saw several swans flying to the northward, which being birds of passage, were considered as the harbingers of spring.

On the 14th, they pitched their tents on Theelee-aza\ River, where they found some families of strange northern Indians, employed in snaring deer; and so poor, that they had not a gun among them. The villains, however, in our author's party, so far from administering to them relief, robbed them of every useful article, and abused some of their young women in a manner too shocking to mention, in spite of all the remonstrances he could make.

Deer being plentiful near this spot, they halted here ten days, in order to prepare and dry a quantity of the flesh to carry with them.