

either tree, shrub, rocks or any inequality for more than ten miles. "They were chequered everywhere", says Cormack, "upon the surface by deep-beaten deer-paths, and were in reality magnificent natural deer parks, adorned by woods and water. The trees here sometimes grow to a considerable size, particularly the larch; birch is also common, the deer herd upon them to graze. It is impossible to describe the grandeur and richness of the scenery, which will probably remain long undefaced by the hand of man."

#### ONWARD—THE REINDEER.

It took the travellers nearly a month to traverse this savanna country, their progress being only at the rate of five to seven miles a day to the westward, while the distance walked was equivalent to three or four times as much. These deviations from the direct course were partly from choice and partly from necessity, as they wished to view and examine the country on the one hand, and had to make frequent detours to get round the extremities of lakes and woods, and to look for game for subsistence. The most noticeable feature of these steppes, was the innumerable deer-paths by which they were traversed in all directions. Of the millions of acres here, there is no one spot exceeding a few superficial yards that is not bounded on all sides by deer-paths. The Newfoundland deer is the Cariboo species, and like that animal in every other country it is migratory. In vast herds they pass in spring from the south-east to the west and north-west portions of the island, returning over the same track on the approach of winter. Nature has liberally stocked Newfoundland with herds finer than those of which Norway and Lapland can boast. Some of these reindeer attain to the weight of six or seven hundred pounds, and even upwards. Cormack found no difficulty in bringing down the fattest of the herds that he met with—generally the leading stag, as tall as a horse. The venison he found excellent, and the fat upon the haunches of some of them was two inches in thickness. The flesh of the reindeer, with that of geese, ducks, and beavers, and magnificent trout from the brooks, constituted their principal

food. When game failed them, they subsisted on berries, of which there was a prodigal abundance. Cormack says he longed for bread for about ten days after his stock was consumed; but after that did not miss it. The black duck of the interior, remote from the sea, is the finest bird for the table in Newfoundland.

"The trout," says Cormack, "are so easily caught in the rivulets—they being unacquainted with enemies—as to take the artificial fly merely by holding out the line in the hand, without a rod. No country in the world can afford finer sport than the interior of this island in the months of August and September. The beasts of the chase are of a large class, and the cover for all game excellent."

#### BERRIES, BEARS AND WOLVES.

The proportion of water to land in the savanna country Cormack found to be very large—in some places half the surface was covered with lakes; in others, one third, and seldom less. In some of the forests strips of the trees were borne down by wind, in the same direction, flat to the earth—the havoc played being awful; and such parts were almost impassable. Towards the centre of the island, the travellers crossed extensive districts remarkable for abundance of berries, which attract great numbers of black bears. The paths, or beats, of these animals throughout their feeding-grounds, are stamped with marks of antiquity seemingly coeval with the country. The points of rocks that happened to project in their way, were perfectly polished from having been continually trodden and rubbed. Many tracks of wolves were seen; but these animals fled before the approach of man. The rocks of the savannas were granite, quartz, and chloritic greenstone. In the whole of this territory only one mountain rises—a solitary peak of granite, which Cormack named Mount Sylvester, after the name of his Indian. Larch, of all other trees, seems to be that to which the savanna soil is most congenial. The travellers observed it growing from the wettest swamp to the summits of the highest hills where fir cannot live. Sarsaparilla, wild currants, gooseberries and raspberries were plentiful