

terminated to remain over night at a farm-house beside the lake, where the horses were to remain during their stay—in- stead of proceeding immediately up the lake to the camping ground, some five miles distant. However, finding there was so little snow upon the surface of the lake that the horses could be taken to within a short distance of the camp, it was determined to adhere to the original plan, much to the disgust of the old Canadian driver, who had contemplated a quiet afternoon's rest for his horse and a good dinner and smoke for himself, instead of ten miles more driving, and a walk from the farm-house to the camp afterwards,—for he was to remain with the party in the capacity of a “hewer of wood and a drawer of water,” and a cook for one tent.

The head of the lake was reached about half an hour before dark; the loads were hastily unpacked, and the old man having been despatched back to the stables with the horses, all hands set to work with a will, some to dig away the snow in two places so as to pitch both tents on the ground, some to cut firewood, and others to *portage* the *matériel* from the lake shore to the camp.

The spot selected was some two hundred yards in from the lake, the approach being through very thick bush. Before the “diggers” had prepared the ground for the tents, darkness set in, and by the time the tents had been set up, and preparations commenced for cooking the meal which was to be alike dinner and supper—the party having fasted since four a.m.,—it was nearly eight o'clock. The old driver now made his appearance reporting the horses comfortably stabled, and lent a willing hand at the *cuisine*, as well as at the onslaught upon the victuals which ensued.

A couple of inches of ice still remained upon the frozen ground after the snow had been removed; upon this a temporary bed was hastily made by

laying first snowshoes and then spreading over them a buffalo robe, and although it was cold enough for the back, still it answered well enough for one night, none of the party being by any means wakeful after their day's work. The night was cold, and as a sufficient stock of firewood had not been provided, the consequence was that the tent grew too cold to allow them to sleep late next morning, and shortly after daybreak all were astir.

The work of making everything as comfortable as possible for their stay, was now begun in earnest, and it may not be considered out of place here, if we attempt to describe, for the information of those who have never experienced the pleasure of a holiday in the bush in winter, the process of camping.

Our party had two tents, six persons being too many to occupy comfortably but one. They were about nine feet long by six in width and shaped much like an ordinary peakroofed house; or perhaps no illustration will so aptly describe their shape as that of a dog's kennel—and they were certainly nearer the size of the latter than of the former. A strong cord passing along the ridge of the tent inside, coming out at each end, back and front, and fastened to two trees, sustains it, while from the top of the “wall,” just where the straight sides of the tent begin to slope inwards towards the ridge, thus forming the roof, six other smaller ropes, three on each side, appear, and keep the tent spread, being fastened out to stakes driven in the snow. It now begins to assume somewhat more of the appearance of a shelter, and when a sheet iron stove is added,—the pipe projecting through a metal plate sewed to the roof of the tent,—it looks quite complete outwardly.

But the comfort inside the tent demands most attention, and this is next looked to. Two logs, each as long as the tent, are laid inside upon the in-turned edge of the canvas, one on either