

fifty feet long and three feet wide. In this task, and it was by no means a small one, he was assisted by several of his fellow-students. Little did they imagine what was working in Ledyard's mind.

17. The canoe was at length completed, was launched, was prepared for a voyage. The heart of Ledyard beat high with joy as he unfastened his canoe, one evening, and amidst the silence of the night, secretly set forth in quest of adventure. This was a bold step. He was unacquainted with the navigation of the river—how then should he manage his canoe amidst its rapids, its currents, and its falls?

18. The heart of Ledyard, however, was strong; he feared no danger; he delighted in what was difficult and hazardous to accomplish. He had stocked his canoe with provisions; and, as a shield from the damps of the night, he had provided himself with a large bear-skin. Thus equipped, he took leave of Dartmouth, and amidst surrounding solitude floated down the river. As occasion required, he employed his paddles, and thus through many a mile and many a league of wilderness, he pursued his solitary way. On the approach of night he