

this reason, and because they had no expectation of finding them alive, they could not be prevailed upon to let off until the waters were abated.

On the twenty-eighth day of May, they set out. Having travelled one day, Mr. Forbes found himself unable to keep up with them; and upon their telling him he could be of no service, and that he might depend upon their fidelity, he consented to return.

They proceeded on their way, and, on the second day of June, arrived at the place where Mrs. Forbes and her children were left. And here, to their great astonishment, they found the mother and one of her children alive. It was now fifty days since they were left with nothing besides the before mentioned moose meat and tallow. Nor had they any thing else during that whole time, excepting cold water, and the inside bark of the fir tree. And in addition to this, they had been forty-eight days without fire.

To paint in proper colours this scene of distress, is altogether beyond my powers of description. It must be left to the imagination of the reader.

On the thirty-eighth day after the departure of Mr. Forbes, the little boy expired. Catharine died the next day; and Mary lived but four days longer. This last child had often told her mother, they should all certainly starve to death; and earnestly begged, in case her mother should outlive her, that she might be put where the wild beasts could not devour her.

The poor woman was herself but just alive, and expected every hour to close the eyes of Peggy, her only remaining child and companion. The bodies of the deceased children were laid out, and kept by her side: For she was unable to bury them—having been so weak, for the last fifteen days, that she had been obliged to crawl upon her hands and knees to the spring for water.

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