

and privations endured by the enterprising men who with axe and handspike opened up the blooming glades of civilization in our ancient forests, I may say that this enforced economical fast usually did not terminate until the pigs were killed in December.

My subject this evening is the wolf. Let me call him, *pro tempore*, to suit the occasion, *Lupus Canadensis*, as I shall deal chiefly with the wolf of the Ottawa Valley, perhaps as large, as fierce, as cunning, and as sanguinary an animal of the amiable family to which he belongs, as can be found in any part of the world.

Apart from the information which I have gathered from the authentic records of natural history, I have had a somewhat intimate acquaintance of a personal nature with this voracious bandit of the wilderness— an acquaintance based upon practical observation, supplemented by the agency of steel traps.

It is a commonly received opinion that the fox surpasses all other animals in cunning. I have had what I consider good and sufficient reasons for doubting the correctness of this conclusion. I do not like to disturb an old popular belief, nevertheless I think that anyone who tries to catch a wolf in a steel trap, will agree with me in the fact, that the wolf is a much more cunning animal than the fox.

In my younger days, I trapped many foxes and wolves, as well as fishers, minks and muskrats. I used no pungent oils, or other extraneous attractions to wile them, but simply matched my own intelligence against their cunning, and in the case of the wolf, I have often for many successive days, found myself completely circumvented.

In proof of the persistent cunning of the wolf, I may relate a circumstance which bears directly upon the point. While out trapping in the month of November, 1840, I fastened a piece of liver upon the knotty spike of a hemlock tree, about three feet from the ground, and set a well concealed trap under it. The wolves frequented the spot every night, and although they trampled a circle in the snow about six feet from the tree, or twelve feet in diameter, their dread of the trap prevented their touching the meat, notwithstanding the fact that it remained in its original position until the first day of April.

A short distance from the same spot, during the same year, I caught three wolves, twenty-seven foxes, three fishers and a marten. I