

ping of the woodpecker, or the croak of the raven breaking the stillness. At night, from the lakes, the loud notes of the loon were heard as they swam about in search of food, sometimes sounding like the lowing of cattle and again like the bleating of sheep. The travellers bivouacked each night in Indian fashion, making a bed of spruce branches, over which, on poles, a blanket was stretched. A fire was kindled, supper cooked, wet clothes dried, and then each rolled himself in his blanket with his feet towards the fire, and reposed on the fragrant bed of boughs.

THE SUMMIT REACHED.

On the 10th September the aspect of the country began to change, the trees became larger and stood more apart; spacious tracts of rocky ground entirely clear of wood became more frequent; they enjoyed the luxury of a breeze that freed them from the hosts of blood-thirsty flies; everything indicated their approach to a more open country. Soon they found themselves on a great granitic ridge covered with scattered trees and a variety of beautiful lichens or rein-deer moss, while partridge berries and whortleberries loaded the ground. Coveys of ptarmigan, the indige- nous grouse of the country, rose in every direction, and snipes from every marsh; the birds of passage, ducks and geese were flying to and fro from their breeding places in the interior and the sea coast; tracks of deer, and of wolves fearfully large, and of bears, foxes, and martins, were seen everywhere. Looking back toward the sea coast a magnificent view met the eye of the travellers. They saw that, under cover of the forest, they had been uniformly ascending for forty miles, since they left the shore at Random Bay; and that now they stood on the summit of a great mountain ridge that served as a barrier between the sea and the interior. The dense black forest through which they had passed appeared spotted with bright yellow marshes and glossy lakes gleaming from its interior.

VIEW OF THE INTERIOR.

Still more magnificent was the view when they turned to the west. The vast

unexplored interior, on which the eye of civilized man had never before gazed, was spread out in all its amplitude and sublimity. It was a rapturous moment for Cormack, and amply repaid all his toils. The panorama presented a vast basin with an emerald surface—green plains marbled with woods and lakes of every form and extent—a picture of all the luxurious scenes of natural cultivation receding into invisibility; very different this from the grim, howling desert which fancy had conjured up as the interior of Newfoundland, filled with repulsive sights and objects of terror. "A new world," exclaims Cormack in rapture, "seemed to invite us onward, or rather we claimed the dominion and were impatient to proceed to take possession. Fancy carried us swiftly across the island. Obstacles of every kind were dispelled and despised. Primitiveness, Omnipotence and tranquillity were stamped upon everything so forcibly that the mind is hurled back thousands of years, and the man left denuded of the mental fabric which a knowledge of ages of human experience and of time may have reared within him. Could a dwelling be secured amid the heavenly emotions excited by the presence of such objects!"

THE BROAD SAVANNAS.

Such was the profusion of animal life in these solitudes that Cormack and his companion fearlessly consumed the remainder of their provisions, which was but small, confident in their ability to secure food for some time to come by their firearms. Game birds were abundant, and beasts of various kinds emerging to prey upon each other. "Monarchs of all they surveyed," everything animate and inanimate seemed to the travellers to be their own. With high hopes they now descended into the interior. The bright plains on which they had been gazing proved to be steppes, or savannas, composed of fine, black compact peat mould, formed by the growth and decay of mosses and covered with a kind of wiry grass. In undulating beds they stretched northward and southward, with running waters and lakes, skirted with woods lying between. Their yellow surfaces were sometimes uninterrupted by