

WILD BEASTS.

No fear need be entertained with reference to wild animals ; I have been in the settlement for about ten years, during which period not a single case of injury has occurred. The sight of a wild animal is very rare ; shortly after I settled in Muskoka, as I was on my way to the Severn Bridge, I saw a large gray wolf ; it was crossing the road near where James Boyd now lives, about a mile north of Grant's Mill ; when it heard my footsteps, it stopped. I shall never forget how I felt as I looked for the first time upon this noble specimen of the North American wolf ; there it stood about 20 yards off, with glaring eyes, pricked up ears, and bushy tail. After we looked at each other for a few seconds, it turned round and walked away in the direction from whence it came as cowardly as possible.

The wolves of this area are not to be compared to those of Russia in ferocity ; besides, they are so abundant that they seldom know what hunger is. I have heard them howling as they were on the pursuit, and the sound is anything but pleasant.

The bear has been often seen, but has never been known to attack any one. They invariably flee from the face of man, and never give battle unless in defence of their young, to which they are strongly attached.

The lynx is very rare, only one having been shot in the District. As an evidence of the perfect safety which we enjoy, I may state that not so much as a lamb has been destroyed by any wild animals in this neighbourhood.

INDIANS.

Few Indians reside in the District, but numbers of them pass through it on their way from Rama to their hunting grounds. They are a very quiet, inoffensive people, fond of jewellery and gaudy attire. They sing very sweetly, and the squaws execute some nice bead work, which displays great taste. It is amusing to see them gliding along in their bark canoes. They are dying off very fast, and I fear that they will soon become extinct. Some of them, however, live to a good old age.

Old Chief Yellow-head died in 1865, aged 106 years. He was an honest Indian, much respected by all who knew him, and he continued to frequent his hunting grounds till a few days before his death. On his last trip he called at the residence of the writer, and remained over night.