

The letters cheered them wonderfully. The best medicine in the world could not have done them so much good, and that night they sang, and laughed, and talked around the camp fire with an exuberance of spirits that evidently astonished the stolid Indians, who were not accustomed to such manifestations of joy.

Denis was quite himself again by this time, and warbled on his flute and danced on his lively legs, to the great amusement of his companions, who were in the mood to find anything funny and diverting.

Among the stores thus sent out was a supply of shirts, and the Englishmen had the great satisfaction of changing their linen for the first time since leaving the sea coast, a luxury which they appreciated in a way their Canadian companions quite failed to understand.

Three days of easy travel brought them to Fort Providence, where Mr. Weeks, the factor in charge, gave them a warm welcome, and did everything in his power to make them comfortable.

Their delight at being once more housed in a comfortable dwelling, and surrounded by the appointments of civilization, may be easily imagined, and they would have been glad to make a long stay, had not Captain Franklin (as he now was) naturally felt impatient to push forward.

Accordingly dog-carioles were provided for him and Dr. Richardson, and they set out again four days later for the establishment at Moose Deer Island, which they reached on December 19.

At this well-appointed fort they decided to remain until spring, in order to thoroughly recover from the