

reindeer, and in 1690, one animal is affirmed to have drawn an officer, with important despatches, eight hundred miles in forty-eight hours.

In FORESTER'S Game in its season, the author gives a very lively description of the Caribou, having reference to this species. He states that "as regards the nature of the pelage, or fur, for it is almost such, of the Caribou, so far from its being remarkable for closeness and compactness, it is by all odds the loosest and longest haired of any deer I ever saw; being, particularly about the head and neck, so shaggy as to appear almost maned.

"In color, it is the most grizzly of deer, and though comparatively dark brown on the back, the hide is generally speaking, light, almost dun-colored, and on the head and neck fulvous, or tawny gray, largely mixed with white hairs.

"The flesh is said to be delicious; and the leather made by the Indians from its skin, by their peculiar process, is of unsurpassed excellence for leggings, moccasins or the like; especially for the moccasin to be used under snow-shoes.

"As to its habits, while the Lapland or Siberian Reindeer is the tamest and most docile of its genus, the American Caribou is the fiercest, fleetest, wildest, shyest, and most untameable. So much so, that they are rarely pursued by white hunters, or shot by them, except through casual good fortune; Indians alone having the patience and instinctive craft, which enables them to crawl on them unseen, unmelt—for the nose of the Caribou can detect the smallest taint upon the air of anything human at least two miles up wind of him—and unsuspected. If he takes alarm and starts off on the run, no one dreams of pursuing. As well pursue the wind, of which no man knoweth whence it cometh or whether it goeth. Snow-shoes against him alone avail little, for propped up on the broad, natural snow-shoes of his long, elastic pasterns and wide cleft clacking hoofs, he shoots over the crust of the deepest drifts, unbroken; in which the lordly moose would soon flounder, shoulder deep, if hard pressed, and the graceful deer would fall despairing, and bleat in vain for mercy—but he, the ship of the winter wilderness, outspeeds the wind among his native pines and tamaracks—even as the desert ship, the dromedary, out-trots the red simoon on the terrible Zahara—and once started, may be seen no more by human eyes, nor run down by fleetest feet of man, no, not if they pursue him from their nightly-casual camps, unwearied, following his trail by the day, by the week, by the month, till a fresh snow effaces his tracks, and leaves the hunter at the last, as he was at the first of the chase; less only the fatigue, the disappointment and the folly.

Therefore, by woodsmen, whether white or red skinned, he is followed only on those rare occasions when snows of unusual depth are crusted over to the very point at which they will not quite support this fleet and powerful stag. Then the toil is too great even for his vast endurance, and he can be run down by the speed of men, inured to the sport, and to the hardships of the wilderness, but by them only. Indians by hundreds in the provinces, and many loggers and hunters in the Eastern States, can take and keep his