

saw plainly that we were steering right for the tent, where we arrived a little before dark. This difficulty of walking thro' the country renders the computed distances very inaccurate: I measured some of them, and found them less by two thirds than what they were rated at.

THE natives talk of two moons as the shortest time in which they perform their journeys to the factories: but it is to be considered, that they are an improvident and lazy people, having no concern but for the subsistence of the present day; and that they are perpetually wandering out of the way to hunt for provisions, and loitering when they have procured them. This, together with the obstructions they must unavoidably meet with in travelling a pathless country, will easily account for the length of time they mention, without supposing that they come from places at several hundred miles distance, and that the continent is of such a prodigious extent to the westward. My mate and I travelled very hard; and yet if we had crossed the island in one uninterrupted journey, though the distance between tent and tent is not eight miles, it would have required near eight hours to have performed it in: and even when but little snow had fallen, and it was very good walking without snow-shoes, I have not been able to accomplish the same journey in less than six hours. If the reader is still doubtful of the fact, let him make the experiment himself in any pathless piece of coppice, marsh, or heath: let him also carry sixty or seventy pounds weight, (for the natives always come laden to the factories;) and let him travel in this manner for several days together; and then see how many miles he will be able to go in eight hours, day after day. And yet this would not be equal to the taking long journeys in snow-shoes, and through light snow, where he must lift his