

This was no easy matter. Such was the nature of the muskegs, or swamp, behind him, that there was no possibility of getting at him in the rear. There was, however, a small rocky island not more than sixty or seventy yards from the sandy beach on which he was now resting. The Indians, knowing the restless nature of bears, said that it was hardly likely that he would remain here very long, but they would try, anyway, a scheme that might possibly work. So we began at once to carry it out. We paddled back a little farther up the river, and then quietly landed on the shore, on the opposite side of the river from the bear. From this place, where we landed, we made a portage by carrying our canoe and its contents along in the forest parallel to the river, but well out of sight and scent of the bear. When directly opposite that little island, which was now between us and the bear, we noiselessly launched and loaded our canoe and quietly paddled across the river and landed on that island on the opposite side from the bear, and therefore out of his sight.

Hardly had we landed and secured our canoe and then taken possession of our guns, before we