

*vek* (the sea gull) was victorious. A trial match between *Waptook* and *Kee-vek* followed, with fresh hands, in which the latter again carried off the palm; after which a number of well-contested matches came off. The day was very warm, and the Indians were naked from the waist upwards, in order to exert themselves more freely. Their coarse, black hair, usually worn rather long, was tucked up and secured, and they bent forward, strained every muscle to the uttermost, uttering short, ringing yells, while they drove the light canoes so swiftly along, that they raised the sparkling foam before them, and at times almost caused them to leap from the water, when struggling for the lead. On that solitary lake, surrounded by the dense forest, and frowned down upon by lofty mountains, this aquatic sport was peculiarly exciting, and presented a species of amusement which can only be seen and perfectly enjoyed in the wilds of North America.

The canoes of the *Milicetes* are formed of one entire piece of birch bark; they are about twenty feet in length, and three feet in breadth in the middle, tapering gradually to the ends, which are quite sharp, and curve upwards considerably. Thin slips of wood are placed the entire length of the canoe, on the inside, and these again are crossed by hoops of the white cedar, the ends of which are secured to gun-wales, of the same light wood, and the whole fabric is secured by lashings, made from the long and slender roots of the young fir, which are split in half for the purpose. The largest, capable of carrying six persons, do not weigh much over a hundred pounds, and are carried by one man very readily. The Indians poise them across their shoulders by the centre bar, and then taking up the peculiar swing which they use in carrying heavy burdens, they trot off with them at the rate of five miles an hour, if they have only a tolerable wood-road to pass over. These frail barques, though perfectly safe, and easily managed by the adept, are very ticklish affairs to persons not accustomed to them, and frequently treat those who venture in them rashly, to the dangers of an upset: yet frail, and light, and ticklish, as they are, the *Milicetes* carry sail upon them; and it is then that the greatest danger is encountered.

As a close to the sports of the day, we proposed trying the sailing properties of the canoes, for a Sweepstakes; and a blanket was forthwith rigged upon each, to do duty for a sail. In this hazardous amusement we did not fail, and as the wind was fair from the Point, we started them properly, and agreed that the

first which passed the tree planted near the mouth of the large stream should be the winner. At first they moved slowly; but soon feeling the full force of the breeze, they flew across the water like birds upon the wing, and, passing the winning-post, all five swept together into the mouth of the creek just beyond it, and were lost to our sight. Their stay was somewhat protracted; but, after a time, we saw moving very quietly out of the creek, to our utter, astonishment, no less than nine canoes! "What!" was the general exclamation, "have the canoes multiplied, like Falstaff's men in buckram suits?" But we were soon able to discover that four of the canoes were deeply laden; and as the little fleet came slowly toward us, they formed a very pretty sight. On reaching our landing-place, there was a great bustle, and much confusion of tongues; and it took us some little time to learn that the newcomers were beaver-trappers, who had been absent in the woods, in a very remote district, nearly a year, during which time they had not seen a single human being, except the members of their own party. They had taken into the forest with them a large quantity of provisions; but these had been long since exhausted, and they had for some months subsisted solely by the chase. Their canoes were laden with heavy packs of beaver-skins, around which were stowed the skins of bears, deer, Cariboo, otters, *loup-cervier*, marten, and minks; they had among them a large quantity of *castoreum*, a valuable medicinal substance found in the beaver, which perfumed the air, sending forth its powerful odours far and wide.

To these sojourners in the wilderness our stores were wondrous luxuries, and we at once determined to have a feast, as well to welcome the return of the hunters (four handsome, athletic, young *Milicetes*), as to conclude the regatta. Our bill of fare may be somewhat curious to the unlearned in such matters; and it is, therefore, offered as a specimen of what may be done in the forest, in the way of cookery. First, then, in a large kettle, was compounded a capital *potage*, from venison, hare, partridge, and pigeons, with broken biscuits, and small pieces of bacon; then, two large pieces of pickled pork, boiled—the great favourite of all woodsmen, and always acceptable to an Indian: next, black ducks, roasted; trout, fried in fat; venison collops, broiled on the coals; and snipe and woodcock, *en papillote*, baked in the hot ashes. With these delicacies, tea sweetened with maple sugar, was used a discretion; and it was highly amusing