

on various kinds of lichens and mosses, gradually moving northward until they reach the coast, where they bring forth their young in the beginning of June; in July they begin to retire from the sea-board, and, in October, rest on the edge of the wood, where they remain during the cold of winter. In the northward movement the females lead, while the southward migration is almost invariably headed by a patriarchal male. The horns of these deer are much varied in shape, scarcely any two animals having them precisely alike. The old males shed theirs towards the end of December, the young males and barren females in April, and the gravid females in May. Their hair falls in July, but begins to loosen in May. The new coat is darkish brown and short; but it gradually lengthens, and becomes lighter in color until it obtains the slate-grey tint of winter. A full grown buck will weigh about a hundred weight; the flesh when in prime condition is very sweet, but bucks, when in season, have their fat strongly impregnated with the flavor of garlic, which indeed is always present more or less. The summer food of the Reindeer is lichens, moss, and coarse grass; in the winter it consists of the dried hay of the swamps, and the hairy moss adhering to the pine trees. I have seen it stated that these animals in the winter, in order to procure food, shovel away the snow from the ground with their horns, but this theory, however plausible, is entirely negatived by the facts of the case, for from my own knowledge, and all that I can learn, both from whites and natives, these deer use *their feet only* for this purpose. Indeed when the horns would be necessary the males would have already lost them, and a supplemental addition would be required to the hypothesis, of the females clearing a space for the males to graze on, as the gentler sex, at that period, reversing human fashions, wear *the horns* instead of their lords.

The Barren-ground Reindeer furnishes the principal support of the Yellow-knife, Dog-rib, and Hare Indians, and has the same value to them the moose to the other branches of their nation. Their clothing for winter is made out of fawn skins, dressed with the hair on, and consists of capotes, gowns shirts, leggins, mittens, socks, and robes, which are warm, and when new, nice looking. Hides which are so much perforated by the larvæ of the *Æstrus* as to be unfit for any other purpose, are converted into *babiche*, to make which the skin is first divested of hair and all fleshy matter; it is then with a knife cut into the desired thickness, the operation beginning in the centre of the skin. There