

The next work they went upon was making four cabins, wherein they coupled two and two, the deer skins dried making a very warm and agreeable sort of bed; for firing, they pulled in pieces seven old unserviceable shallops that lay upon the shore, and piled the pieces, with some other fuel they had collected, over the beams, whereby they provided against the snow's coming quite down on them, should it by any chance penetrate thro' the tiles.

The days now growing cold, or rather nights, for day-light there was scarcely any, they kept good fires, and in order to make the most of their fire-wood, when they went to rest, they raked up all the ashes and embers together over a piece of elm, which when opened, after lying perhaps sixteen hours, yielded a very great heat; and by these means, with proper care, their fuel lasted eight months, during which their fire never once went out.

On the 12th of September, there came a quantity of drift ice into the Sound, upon one piece of which, they perceived two sea horses fast asleep; they immediately put out the boat, and taking an old harpoon and a rope, approached near enough to them undiscovered, and the gunner made so excellent a stroke at the old one, that the harpoon stuck fast in her, and in a short time was killed with a lance, as was also the young one. They were soon hauled ashore, and when roasted, afforded a most plentiful meal.

About the 10th of October, the cold grew very severe, the seas were frozen as far as they could see, and as their cloaths were in a ragged condition, they thought of an expedient, which was to make needles of whale-bone, and thread out of rope-yarn, with which they did their utmost endeavour to keep their tattered garments a little longer together. From one of the coolers they got a piece of lead, of which making a sort of lamp, they put into it some rope-yarn for candlewick, and supplying it with oil found in the cooper's tent, made a light which was very comfortable.