

Hearne's Journey.

Directing their course to the westward, they entered on thick shrubby woods, consisting chiefly of stunted pines and dwarf junipers, with some few willow bushes and poplars.

On the 30th, they arrived at the east side of Island Lake, where they killed two large deer. In the evening of that day the guide was taken ill; and from the nature of his complaint, it appeared, that gorging some days before was the principal cause of it. Nothing is more common, indeed, than for these people to overload their stomachs after being weakened by long fasting, and the effect of this cannot but be felt. Yet, though they are voluptuaries, when it is in their power, no nation can support longer abstinence, or shew more fortitude under the privation of every necessary.

On the 1st of January 1771, they proceeded on about sixteen miles along the same lake, when they came to two tents, in which some of the wives and families of Matonabee's party had been left, waiting their husbands' return from the fort.