## 252 NORTH OVERLAND WITH FRANKLIN

bone and other refuse that had accumulated. They brought in a pile of dried wood which had been lying on the river-side, and towards which Dr. Richardson and Hepburn had often cast wistful eyes, but had been unable to drag up the bank. With this they kept up blazing fires, that added immensely to the comfort of all, and, best of all, they caught a number of trout in the lake, which were even more prized than meat by the Englishmen.

Having thus met the inward needs of the party, the kind creatures next turned their attention to their outward appearance, and prevailed upon them to wash and shave themselves, which they summoned up sufficient energy to do.

From the moment of their arrival Denis brightened up, and began to improve.

Dr. Richardson fed him carefully with small portions of cooked meat, and his strength came back so rapidly that on the second day he got up, and said he was ready to start for Fort Providence.

But they could not set out just yet, and so he signalized his recovery by playing on his flute for the Indians, who seemed to greatly enjoy the shrill music, and by making a brave attempt to shoot one of a herd of deer that was sighted, in which, however, he utterly failed.

Owing to stress of weather and other reasons, it was a week after the timely arrival of the Indians ere the expedition could leave Fort Enterprise, and then, with profoundly grateful hearts, they turned their backs upon the dreary building which had come so near proving their death-chamber. The Indians showed wonderful consideration and kindness, giving their snow-shoes to the Englishmen, and keeping by