

except on recognized paths, is enormous. The country through which we were now to pass was not of this character, but saving here and there a *slash*—that is, the confusion made by the fall of some tree, which, as never fails to be the case, has brought down a long succession with it in its fall, just as nine-pins or insolvent merchants do—saving too, an old beaver meadow, which was grown over with tea-plant and high reedy-grasses, and also a portion at the end of the journey, where an old, partial clearing had been overgrown by a thicket of hazel underbrush,—the whole day's march was over the richest and softest of carpets. What straw-stuffed Turkey carpet—what sofa or feather-bed is so luxurious as eight or ten inches of moss—matted so thick that, although a good portion of our way was over heaps of the roundest and barest of boulders, without any soil between them, we were not aware of the caverns over which we trod, except when, now and then, one foot breaking through, went down until the impossibility of the other following, stopped the descent. Over this rich carpet the red deer and the caribou bound among the thick, irregular colonades of the forest with as much freedom as horses on a plain. Ere we started on our tramp, we were introduced into the mysteries of a mink or martin trap—it does for either of these animals, although in nature they are more different than in shape—the mink being a weasel, and the martin of the cat kind.

The trap is constructed by excavating a hole in the side of a tree, about six inches from the ground. In front of this hole is laid a round piece of wood the top of which is on a level with the hole. A long pole, about four inches thick at the butt, is then chosen; the thick end of which is supported above this at a distance, just high enough to allow the animal to pass through, by a twig which rests on the lower stick a little on the outside of its highest point, or rather on the outer end of another twig, which stretches into the hole, and on the opposite end of which a bait is tied. The upper stick is then loaded to the utmost capacity of the twig which supports it, and the trap is complete. The mink, to obtain the meat, must have its head and shoulders in the hole, and the first pull he gives it sets the perpendicular twig running down the outside of the stick on which it stood, and the whole superincumbent mass falls upon the body of the devoted fur-bearer. A few yards



from the mink-trap was a fisher-trap, whose construction is entirely different. The fisher or wild-cat is too wary for dead-falls, and a steel-trap, under ordinary circumstances, would be equally useless, as the trapper would be quite likely to find nothing but a foot or two, or the proof of having been left in the trap by their original owner. The steel-trap is set under water where the fisher usually frequents—the only way to elude the scent which would accompany the setting of it. The chain is attached to the small end of a tree, which has been fastened to the ground in some slight way,

