

in the latter an excess of that which in too great a proportion is injurious to health. The ruddy appearance of its people there is no longer a mystery for the oxygen with which they are necessarily connected keeps the blood in its normal condition, being a natural purifier.

The naturalist's thoughts ramble in various directions, even in the same individual, so that it would be difficult to pursue in a concise manner those most interesting to the uninitiated. My last words will be confined to the bush itself, or more strictly speaking, the animated nature found within its precincts.

The forest giants of Muskoka are fast disappearing, and the happy hunting ground of the Indian is being desecrated by the settler's shanty. The deer are becoming scarce and the moose is seldom seen or heard of; nothing now remains of those antlered monarchs to relate their history but the preserved heads over the doorways of the hotels; there will no doubt be a time when no vestige of them will remain and the historian will have to turn his steps to the museums if he wants to find an account of what existed in the ages of the past. The bear, wolf, and fox are rapidly becoming extinct at the hands of the hunter, and there is hardly a sound in the bush save the twitterings of birds, the chattering of squirrels, and the shriek of the blue jay. The black squirrel seldom makes his appearance as far north while the little chipmunk thinks his striped coat of many colors should on no account be excluded from its fauna, and to make himself conspicuous, sits on the top of a log chirruping his war note of defiance to the intruder. Aware of his own agility he stays to the last moment, then retreats to his burrow in the ground.

The flora is very similar to that of the more settled districts though wider in its profusion. The Moose-wood is a notable characteristic in the underbrush, its leathery branches bearing a great resemblance to the antlers of the animal from which it takes its name, and on account of its tenacity to life is found very difficult to eradicate by the settler. In many places can be found the Ground Hemlock and Cedar, interspersed by wintergreens and cryptogamous plants forming a verdant carpet of the most durable type so much so that continued walking on it