

large grey or Canada goose, (*Bernicla Canadensis*), is listened to with a rapture known only to those who have endured great privations, and gnawing hunger. The melancholy visages brighten, and the tents are filled with hope, to which joy soon succeeds, as the happy father, or hopeful son and brother, returning successful from the hunt, throws down with satisfaction and pride the grateful load.

The *Bernicla Canadensis* here alluded to is the largest of our geese, and is almost always first seen in the Hudson's Bay Company's Territories. It may be only a single straggler which has lost its mate, or at most five or six together. These are the advanced guard of the serried legions of other water-fowl, which nature and instinct send forth every spring from the south, to occupy during the productive summer, the land of the north, and to partake of the plentiful and luscious repasts that Providence has, during their absence, been storing up for them, in a hidden, yet nascent state.

The Canada grey goose, as if aware of the general favor in which it is held, spreads itself diffusively over the whole continent. Its disposition has less of wildness in it than that of the snow goose. We come upon it hatching in quiet recesses and corners, surrounded by reedy waters, where "rushes and grasses do most abound." It is at home over the whole wooded portion of the country, equally so in the extensive marshes of the sea coast, and on the mossy barrens of the Chipewyan and Esquimaux lands. During the winter, like other species, it takes refuge in the more temperate portions of the country, courting always open water. I have seen a flock in the strong open current of the St. Lawrence, above Lachine, near Montreal, in the month of January or February, but such an occurrence is rare. In this latitude, say 45° west of the Rocky Mountains, but especially on the coast of the Pacific, they are plentiful during the whole winter, in mild seasons. Before Oregon was settled by the Americans, the Hudson's Bay Company's post of Fort Vancouver used to be supplied by Indian hunters with grey geese, large and small, as well as with occasional swans and white geese; and this at times so liberally, that a day's rations twice a week could be furnished to an establishment of 30 to 40 men. Some of these geese had been killed by the bow and arrow. This game formed our best rations, but it was seldom in such condition as it is to be had in the north, after it has enjoyed a week or two on the feeding grounds. I have no