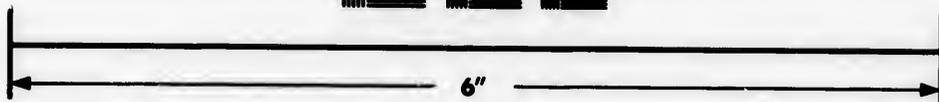
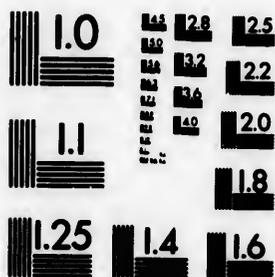


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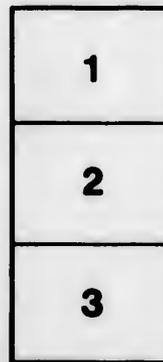
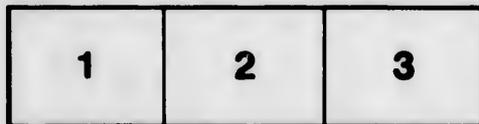
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JOURNEY  
FROM  
*FORT PRINCE WALES,*  
IN HUDSON'S BAY,  
TO THE  
NORTHERN OCEAN,

*FOR THE DISCOVERY OF COPPER MINES  
AND A NORTH WEST-PASSAGE,*

PERFORMED BETWEEN THE YEARS  
1769 AND 1772,

BY MR. SAMUEL HEARNE.

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PHILADELPHIA.

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOSEPH & JAMES CRUKSHANK;  
No. 87, HIGH-STREET.

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# JOURNEY

FROM

FORT PRINCE WALES,

TO THE

NORTHERN OCEAN, &c.

**T**HE Hudson's Bay Company, however, traduced by some, as being inimical to discoveries within the bounds of their charter, have, on more occasions than one, shewn themselves zealous in promoting whatever might tend to the honour or benefit of their country, as well as their own individual interests.

Animated with those collective views, they appointed Mr. Samuel Hearne, one of their officers, to prosecute discoveries in a track little known, even from report of the natives; who sometimes resorted to the settlement. In his instructions, he was directed to proceed towards latitude 70 deg. north, to endeavour to

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trace the Far-off-Metal River to its mouth, to explore the situation of the copper mines, if any, of which indistinct accounts had been given; and, in short, to attend to any localities which might be productive of an extended commerce, or geographical knowledge.

His first attempt was made in the close of the year 1769, when, after proceeding about two hundred miles, his Indian guides deserted him; and it was with great difficulty he regained the settlement at Fort Prince Wales. Not daunted by this unsuccessful expedition, he set out again on the 23<sup>d</sup> of February 1770, accompanied by three northern and two southern Indians. Having travelled, without any material occurrence, for upwards of a month, the difficulties of proceeding farther, till the season became more advanced, were so great that they were induced to pitch their winter tent, in which they lodged till the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, when they again resumed their journey. They reached the river Cathawba-chagay in latitude 53 deg. 4 min. north,

about the beginning of July. In their way to the westward they crossed several other rivers, sometimes in a canoe, which they carried with them, and sometimes by fording. As their distresses multiplied, the Indians again began to shew dissatisfaction; but by an unfortunate accident, on the 11th of August, the quadrant was broke, at a time when they found themselves in latitude 63 deg. 10 min. north, longitude 10 deg. 40 min. west of Churchill river; and this laid Mr. Hearne under the disagreeable necessity of returning again to the fort. After experiencing incredible distresses, he reached the settlement on the 25th of November, and thus ended his second abortive attempt.

Still resolute to accomplish the business committed to him, and taught by experience how to provide against several ills that he had undergone in his former journeys, Mr. Hearne, with the approbation of the factory, made preparations for a third expedition, which, as it was more interesting, as well as

successful, we mean to detail at some length.

Having engaged an Indian chief, named Matonabee, as his guide, who clearly and sensibly pointed out the causes which had contributed to their former failures, and described the plan he would wish to recommend in this attempt, Mr. Hearne set out again, with a party belonging to the Indian chief, on the 7th of December 1770; and for some days they found the weather tolerably mild for that season of the year.

On the 16th, they arrived at Egg River, where Matonabee and his friends had secured, as they thought, some provisions and necessary implements a short time before. On examining the place of the deposit, however, they found the whole had been carried off by some of the Indians, who had passed that way; a loss which was severely felt by them, but borne with heroic fortitude; nor did a word of revenge, in case it should be in their power, escape their lips.

On the 18th, as they were continuing their course, they discovered several joints of deer in good preservation, which had been recently killed by some unknown Indians. On this they feasted with much satisfaction, as they had fared very hard for some preceding days. Entering some woods on the 26th, they had the good fortune to kill four deer; and as they had not tasted any thing for three days, except a pipe of tobacco and a draught of snow water, their strength, loaded as they were, was beginning to fail, and they requested leave to halt a day, to refresh themselves.

Our author says, he never spent such a melancholy Christmas in his life; and when he reflected on the delicacies that were then expending in every part of Christendom, under the pressure of fatigue and hunger, he could not refrain from wishing himself in a more genial clime. The Indians, however, kept in good spirits, and flattered him that they would soon find better roads, and deer and game in greater plenty.

## 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.

Here they found two men, and about twenty women and children; and as those two men had neither gun nor ammunition, they had no other means of subsisting themselves and friends, but, by catching fish, and snaring a few rabbits. The former were plentiful, and consisted of pike, barbel, and trout, with some fish for which we have no English name.

The centre of Island Lake lies in latitude 60 deg. 45 min. north, longitude 102 deg. 25 min. west from London. It is in some places about thirty-five miles wide, and is so full of islands, that the whole lake resembles a jumble of winding rivers and creeks. Fish is abundant in every part, and therefore, it is a favourite station with the northern Indians, who visit Prince of Wales's Fort in autumn. Many of the islands, as well as the mainland round the lake, are covered with dwarf wood. The face of the country, like all that to the north of St. Lawrence, is hilly and full of rocks.

Pursuing their journey towards the north-west, their provisions grew very

short, till the 16th, when the Indians killed no fewer than twelve deer. This supply induced them to halt a few days, in order to dry and pound some meat, to render it lighter of carriage.

Having, by the 22d, prepared a sufficient stock of portable provisions, and repaired their sledges and snow shoes, they resumed their journey. In the afternoon of that day, they fell in with a stranger who had one of Matonabee's wives under his care. This was the first person they had seen, in travelling some hundred miles, who was not connected with their own party: a proof how thinly this part of the country was peopled.

Next day they found deer still more numerous; and contragulated themselves on the prospect of suffering no more want during the winter.

On the 3d of February, they were so near the edge of the woods, that the barren land was in sight to the northward; and as the woods increased to the west, they were obliged to leave the woods in their direction, for the sake of keeping among them, and consequently a

mong the deer. This day they saw several strangers, some of whom joined their party.

On the 6th, they crossed the main branch of Cathawhachaga River, about three quarters of a mile broad; and soon after arrived at the side of Partridge Lake, which they crossed on the ice next day, where it was about fourteen miles over. The intensity of the cold was beyond expression, and many of the crew were frost bitten. One of the Matonabee's wives was so frozen, as to be almost incrusted on the lower parts with ice; and as she was thawing in great pain, her companions only jeered her, and told her she was rightly served for belting her clothes so high; a circumstance which they ascribed to the vanity of shewing a well-turned leg.

After passing Partridge Lake, they found deer so abundant for many days, that the Indians killed more than they could eat or carry with them. Accustomed themselves to subsist on precarious supplies, they have no idea of saving for the benefit of others; and riot on

game when they fall in with it, regardless of real wants, or the future consequences of the devastation they make.

On the 21st, they crossed the Snowbird Lake, and found deer as plentiful as before, so that much time was expended in killing and eating them; but as Mr. Hearne was assured that the season would by no means permit them to proceed in a direct line to the Copper-Mine River, this delay was of little consequence.

In crossing Pike Lake, on the 3d of March, they came up to a large tent of northern Indians, who had been living there from the beginning of winter, and had employed that long interval in catching deer in a pound. Indeed so successful is this method of sporting, in a country where the game is so abundant, that many families subsist by it, without having occasion to move their tents above once or twice in the course of a whole winter.

Such an easy mode of procuring subsistence in the winter months, is a capital blessing to the aged and the infirm;

but is apt to render the young and active indolent and inert; for as those parts of the country, where deer abound, are destitute of every animal of the fur kind, it cannot be supposed that such as can live with so little toil, will give themselves the trouble of hunting for furs, which are requisite to procure them ammunition and other European commodities. Such is the language, our author observes, of the more industrious among the indians themselves; but in his opinion, there cannot exist a stronger proof, that mankind were not created for happiness in this world, than the conduct of the miserable beings who inhabit this wretched part of it\*. None but the aged, the infirm, the women, and children, and a few who are regardless of opinion (and they are the happy few every where!) will submit to remain in the parts where food and clothing are to

\* Man was certainly made for happiness; but his own foolish passions, or his being a slave to the passions or opinions of others, deprive him in every climate of his birth right. From these sources flow the infelicity of man; not that nature has been unkind, or God unjust.

be procured on such easy terms ; because they cannot shine as hunters, or accumulate furs. And what do the more industrious gain by all their trouble ? Their real wants are easily supplied. A hatchet, an ice chissel, a file, and a knife are all that is required to enable them to procure a comfortable livelihood ; and those who aim at more, are always the most unhappy, and have the most numerous wants to supply.

Those who bring their furs to the factory, indeed, pride themselves much on the respect which is shewn them by the English ; to obtain which, they frequently run the risk of being starved in their way thither or back ; and all they can possibly procure for their year's labour, seldom amounts to more than is sufficient to yield a bare subsistence till the return of the season ; while such as are despised for their indolence or want of spirit, generally live in a state of plenty ; and consequently must be most happy and most independant also. He therefore is at once the greatest philosopher and the wisest man, who lives for him-

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self, his family, and friends; and laughs at the madness of ambition, and the whistlings of a name.

Having stopped a night in company with the Indians whom they found on the Pike Lake, they began crossing the remainder of it next morning; but though the weather was fine, and the whole breadth not more than twenty-seven miles, the Indians were so full of play, that they were upwards of two days before they reached the west side of it.

On the 8th of March, they lay near a place called Black Bear Hill, where they killed two deer; and next day they had such fine pleasant weather, as gave them the prelude of spring though little thaw was yet visible.

On the 19th, they saw the track of several strangers; and on the subsequent day came up to five tents of northern Indians, who had resided there great part of the winter, snaring deer.

At this place a storm came on which raged with such violence, that they did not move for several days, and as some of the Indians they had taken in with,

were proceeding to Fort Prince Wales, Mr. Hearne embraced the opportunity of sending a letter by them to the chief, to acquaint him with his progress. The latitude here was calculated to be 61 deg. 30 min. north, longitude about 19 deg. 50 min. west of Churchill River.

The weather becoming fair and temperate on the 23d, they again pursued their way, and on that and the succeeding days, they fell in with several Indians, some of whom being acquaintances of the party, joined company.

Continuing to shape their course to the west-ward, on the 8th of April, they arrived at a lake called Little Fish Hill, and pitched their tents on an island in it. Here the Indians finding deer very numerous, determined to stay some time, and to lay in a stock of portable provisions; because, from the season of the year, they were aware, that their game would soon quit the the covert of the woods for the barren grounds.

At this time the party did not consist of less than seventy persons, who were lodged in seven tents. For ten days the

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hunting went on briskly, and having procured an adequate supply of dried stores, they again set off on the 18th of April. After travelling about ten miles, they came to a tent of Indians, near the Thelewey-aza River. From these people Matonabee purchased another wife, though he had six before; and most of them of the size of grenadiers. Indeed the chief pride of an indian is to have a wife of strength rather than beauty; for in a country like this, where a partner, able to endure hard labour, is the chief motive for the union, and the attachment of sex a secondary object, this preference of choice is not to be wondered at.

In general, the women here are far from being objects of attraction, according to our ideas of beauty; though there are a few, when young, that are not quite destitute of personal charms. Hard labour, however, hard fare, and a rigorous climate, soon render them wrinkled; and they have all the marks of decrepitude before they are thirty.

But this does not render them less dear and valuable to their owners, provided their strength remains; and a woman who can carry eight or ten stone weight in summer, or drag a much greater weight in winter, is sure of a husband, whatever her person may be. As for good temper and mental accomplishments, of so much consequence in polished society, and without which the conjugal union must be a state of misery, it is here of little value. The men have a wonderful facility in making the most stubborn comply, with as much promptitude as the most willing; the command is given, and it must be obeyed.

Women indeed are kept at a very great distance. They perform the most laborious offices; and yet the meanest male in the family must be satisfied before wife or daughter is permitted to taste a bit; and in times of scarcity, they frequently go without a single morsel. Should they attempt to serve themselves in secret, it must be done with great caution, as a detection would subject them to a beating at least. Indeed, an

embezzlement of provisions would be a blot in their character which it would be difficult to efface.

As the vicinity of Thelewey-aza River afforded plenty of good birch, they halted there several days to complete the wood work for the canoes, and other necessary purposes. On the 20th, a brother of the Indian guide, and some others were sent forward to a small lake, named Clowey, to build a canoe with all expedition.

The children are always named by the parents, or some of their nearest relations. Boys have various appellations, generally derived from place, season, or animal; but the names of the girls are chiefly taken from some part or property of a martin; such as the white martin, the black martin; the martin's head, the martin's tail, &c.

They now shaped their course nearly north; but the snow was so much melted from the heat of the sun, that they were ten days in reaching Clowey, though the distance was not more than eighty-five miles from the last station.

On their arrival at Clowey (a lake about twelve miles over) the 3d of May, they found their captain's brother and associates had only distanced them three days. Here they were joined by several Indians from different quarters, all with an intent of building their canoes at the same place.

It was the 20th before the canoes belonging to Mr. Hearne's party were ready. These vessels are necessarily very slight and simple in their construction, as it is sometimes requisite to carry them more than one hundred miles. Their chief use is to cross lakes and unfordable rivers, after the ice is dissolved; for in winter, both land and water are one solid mass. The Indian employs no other tools in the construction of his vessel, save a hatchet, a knife, a file, and an awl; yet the workmanship is not to be excelled by what the most expert artist could accomplish with every tool in common use.

The shape of the northern Indian canoes bears some resemblance to a weaver's shuttle, but the stern is by far the

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widest part, as there the baggage is generally laid, and occasionally a second person stretched out at his full length. The dimensions are about twelve feet long, by two in the widest part. The bottom is quite flat. The single paddle is generally used in steering.

Mr. Hearne distributed a little tobacco among the Indians they fell in with at Clowey; and indeed, a pipe or two, and sometimes a present of a few inches of roll tobacco, were always expected by every stranger of any consequence. This constant demand, added to the consumption of his own party, diminished his stores more than one half, before he had proceeded thus far. Gunpowder and shot are likewise articles of high estimation among the Indians; and Matonabee, from his own supplies, liberally gratified his countrymen with them.

Leaving Clowey, they proceeded northward. Soon after fell in with some strangers, who informed them that Captain Keelshies was within a day's walk to the southward. By this chief, our

author had dispatched a letter to the Fort in his last attempt, just before the quadrant was broke; and they had not met since. Two young men were therefore commissioned to proceed to Keelshies station, to receive the letters and goods that had been intrusted to him on Mr. Hearne's account. These returned on the 22d, and reported that Captain Keelshies intended to join them in a few days, and deliver the things with his own hand.

The evening of the 24th of May, the weather was excessively bad, accompanied with violent thunder and lightning. Next morning, however, the wind veering about, it became intensely cold and frosty, which much impeded their progress. The country over which they travelled now, was quite barren, and sprinkled with a few dry stumps of trees.

On the 27th, resuming their journey, they walked about twelve miles to the northward, on the ice of a small river that falls into Peshew Lake. Seeing a smoke to the southward, they advanced to an island in that lake, and there pitch-

ed their tents with an intention of waiting the approach of Captain Keelshies.

In the night, one of Matonabee's wives and another women eloped; and it was supposed they had gone to rejoin their former husbands, from whom they had some time before been taken by force. The chief was almost inconsolable for the loss of his wife, though he had still six remaining. Indeed it seems she was by far the handsomest of his flock, and possessed every valuable and engaging quality to be found in an Indian. She appeared, however, unhappy with Matonabee; and probably preferred being the sole wife of a young fellow of less note, than to share the divided affection of the greatest man of the country.

Time immemorial, it has been a custom among those people to wrestle for the woman to whom they are attached; and of course, the strongest carries off the prize. Indeed without a considerable share of bodily strength, or some natural or acquired consequence, it is seldom permitted to keep a wife, whom

a stronger man thinks worth his notice, or whom he wants to assist in carrying his goods.

This savage and unnatural custom prevails throughout all their tribes, and excites a spirit of emulation among youth to distinguish themselves in gymnastic exercises, to enable them to protect their wives and property.

The manner in which they tear the women and other property from each other, is not so much by fighting as by hauling each other by the hair of the head. Seldom any hurt is done in those rencounters. Before the contest begins, it is not unusual for one or both of the combatants to cut off his hair, and to grease his ears in private. If one only is shorn, though he be the weakest man, he generally obtains the victory; so that it is evident, address will ever exceed mere strength among all nations.

The by-standers never interfere on these occasions; not even the nearest relations, except by advice to pursue or abandon the contest. Scarcely a day passes without some overtures being

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made for contests of this kind ; and our author says, it often affected him much, to see the object of the dispute, sitting in pensive silence, and awaiting the termination of the combat, which was to decide her fate. Sometimes a woman happens to be won by a man whom she mortally hates ; but even in this case, she must be passive, should she at the same time be torn from a man she really loves.

It is generally, however, young women, or at least such as have no children, who thus frequently change masters ; for few are fond of maintaining the children of others, except on particular occasions.

Some of the aged, particularly if they have the reputation of being conjurers, possess great influence over the rabble, and sometimes prevent such irregularities. As far, indeed, as their own family and connections are concerned, they will exert their utmost influence ; but when their own relations are guilty, they seldom interfere. This partial con-

duct creates them secret, as well as open, enemies; but fear or superstition prevents the ebullitions of revenge.

Unprincipled and savage as the northern Indians may appear, in robbing each other, not only of their property, but their wives, they are naturally mild, and seldom carry their enmity farther than wrestling. A murder is seldom heard of among them; and the perpetrator of such a horrid crime is sure to experience the fate of Cain: he is a wanderer, and becomes forlorn and forsaken, even by his own relations and former friends.

Captain Keelshies joined them on the morning of the 29th. He delivered a packet of letters to Mr. Hearne, and such goods as had been intrusted to him, which his own necessities, in the intermediate time, had not tempted him to use.

He cried often, in sign of sorrow, for having been obliged to embezzle so much; and as the only recompence then in his power, gave our author some ready-dressed moose skins, which

were in reality more acceptable, in his present situation, than what Keelshies had expended.

Same day an event happened that had nearly put an end to the expedition. An Indian joined them, who insisted on taking one of Matonabee's wives by force, unless he gave him a certain quantity of ammunition, iron, and other articles. The man, it appears, had very lately sold the woman to the captain; but having expended all the purchase value, he was determined to make another bargain for her; and as she was a very useful woman, and dexterous in every female art, that gained credit among these people, the chief was reduced to the most mortifying dilemma. He was sensible he was not able to wrestle with the claimant; he was exasperated at the trick put upon him; however, after some hours squabbling, the presents were produced, and the woman remained with Matonabee.

But this indignity he could not brook; he threatened to renounce his countrymen, and to join the Athapusco Indians,

with whose chiefs he was well acquainted ; and from whom he said he had always met with more civility than from his own people. Had this resolution been carried into effect, there would have been an end of the expedition to the Copper-Mine River ; for the Athapusco country lies in a different direction.

Alarmed with the prospect of a third failure, though under no apprehension of personal safety, Mr. Hearne waited with anxiety till he thought the passion of the chief had a little abated ; and then by soothing language, by the arguments of duty, interest and fidelity to the Hudson's Bay Company, he urged him not to abandon an expedition which could not be carried on without him, and for conducting which to a fortunate issue, he might expect not only favour, but reward.

Rage at last subsided ; and the chief, though late in the afternoon, ordered his crew to advance, and after walking some miles they put up on another island in Peshew Lake.

Having got to the north side of this lake on the 30th, every arrangement was made for facilitating the execution of the scheme. Most of the women and children were to be left under the care of some Indians, with orders to proceed to the northward at their leisure, and to wait the return of the party from the Copper River, at a place appointed. Matonabee took only two of his youngest wives with him, who were lightly laden; and indeed, it was agreed on, that no one in the party should carry more ammunition, or other articles, than was absolutely necessary for the occasion.

The women expressed great sorrow at parting, and the chief was obliged to use all his authority to keep his part of them from following him. Their yells were most piteous, as long as they were within hearing; while the Indians walked on with a gay indifference, seldom thinking of those they left behind, or confining their whole regard to their younger children.

They were now in latitude 64, so that they saw as well to walk or hunt by night as by day. Here they found a few deer, though this kind of game had long ceased to be plentiful, and they had chiefly subsisted on their dried provisions.

It should have been observed, that a number of Indians joined them at Clowey, and intended to accompany them to the Copper-Mine River, with no other object than to murder the Esquimaux, who, they understood, frequented that river in considerable numbers. This horrid scheme, it seems, was universally approved of, and every man equipped himself with a target, before he left the woods of Clowey. Nevertheless, when the women and children were about to be left, only sixty volunteers followed Matonabee's party; the rest more prudently staid with their wives and families.

As soon as Mr. Hearne was apprized of this barbarous intention, of murdering a people who had done them no injury, he zealously strove to dissuade

them from such a design; but so far were his entreaties from being regarded, they apprehended he was actuated by cowardice and with many marks of derision, told him, he was afraid of the Esquimaux. Knowing his personal safety depended on the ideas his attendants formed of his courage, he was obliged to change his tone, and affected the hero. He found it in vain, indeed, to attempt to stem the torrent of savage prejudice, or to inspire more humane or just principles, and therefore he in future left them to their own discretion.

Being now exonerated from every useless encumbrance or cause of delay, they pursued their journey to the northward with great speed; but, owing to the badness of the weather, it was the middle of June before they reached the latitude of 67 deg. 30 min.

In their way thither, they crossed several lakes on the ice: and in some creeks and rivers they caught a few fish. Deer were so plentiful, that the Indians killed numbers merely for the fat, marrow and tongues; nor was it possible to

*at least*

make them desist from this unnecessary destruction of the poor animals. They insisted on it, that killing plenty of deer or other game in one season, would never make them scarce in another; and when it was in their power to live on the best, it would be folly to neglect it. Such are the narrow, selfish views of people who are destitute of elegancies, and who, at best, have the means of no more than a precarious subsistence.

Having passed Cogead Lake, on the 20th of June, on the ice, the following day they were surrounded by such a thick fog, that they could not see their way. However, in a few hours, the sun broke out, and did not set at all; a convincing proof that they were then within the arctic polar circle.

On the 22d, they arrived at a branch of Congëcathawhachaga River; and as the ice was now broken up, they passed it in their canoes, with the friendly assistance of some Copper Indians, whom they found on its banks, employed in killing deer.

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Matonabee, and many of his countrymen, were personably acquainted with most of those Copper Indians; and their meeting was highly greatful to both parties. A feast of dried meat and fat was prepared, and Matonabee and his friends were invited to partake of it.

The Copper Indians being made acquainted with the object of the present journey, highly approved of it, and even offered their assistance, particularly in lending their canoes, which they said would be very useful during the remainder of the journey. Our author, according to his instructions, smoked the calumet of peace with the principal of the Copper Indians, who was delighted with the prospect of a settlement in his country; and seemed to think there could be no impediment to prevent it; for though he acknowledged that he had never seen the sea clear of ice at the mouth of the Copper River, yet it did not occur to him, that this must prevent ships from approaching their territories.

The whole party of the Copper Indians, notwithstanding they had never

seen an Englishman before, were extremely civil and obliging; our traveller made them a present of some such articles as he had, to conciliate their affection the more. They pronounced him to be a perfect human being, except in the colour of his hair and eyes; the former they said was like the stained hair of a buffaloe's tail; and the latter like those of a gull. The whiteness of his skin they thought no ornament; and compared it to flesh sodden in water. However, he was considered as a great curiosity, and treated with much respect. When he combed his head, they asked for the hairs that came off, which they carefully wrapped up, saying, "when I see you again, you shall see this." Hence it seems, that among the civilized and uncivilized, a lock of hair is regarded as a proof of affection, or as a memorial of friendship.

Matonabee now dispatched his brother and several Copper Indians, to Copper-Mine River, to announce the arrival of the strangers, and the objects they had in view; and that they might

meet with a more welcome reception, tobacco and otheir trifling articles were were sent by the same conveyance, to be distributed in presents.

As it was resolved on to leave all the women at this place, and to proceed to the Copper-Mine River without them, it was necessary to continue here a few days to kill deer sufficient for their support, during the period of absence. Though game was most abundant, so large was the daily consumption, that it was some time before they could procure adequate supply for the women and for themselves. Meat, cut in thin slices and dried, is not only very portable but palatable; and, with care to air it during the hot weather, will keep for a year without injury.

Notwithstanding the hospitable manner in which the Copper Indians behaved, in spite of Matonabee's exertions, some of his party made free with their young women, clothes and bows; a circumstance very distressing to our author. The chief, indeed, did not seem to think there was much harm in mono-

polizing the women; but he endeavoured to repress the depredations of his followers on other kinds of property, without making a due equivalent.

That a plurality of wives should be the universal custom among these tribes, is not much to be wondered at, when it is considered that they are the greatest travellers on earth; and as they have neither beast of burden or water carriage, every good hunter is under the necessity of having persons to carry his furs to market; and none are so well adapted for this work as the women, who are inured to carry and haul heavy goods from their very childhood; so that he who is capable of providing for three, four, or more women, is, comparatively speaking, a great man.

Jealousies however sometimes appear among them, notwithstanding habit has familiarized them to their situation; but as the husband is always arbitrator, the disputes are soon settled, and submission must be paid to his commands,

The northern Indian women are the mildest and most virtuous of the North

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American natives ; while the southern Indian females are remarkable for the dissoluteness and indecency of their manners. In fact, they are so far from laying any restraints on the appetites and passions, that they indulge themselves in all the grossness of sensuality, and even of incestuous debauchery. No accomplishments whatever, in man, can conciliate their affections, or preserve their chastity,

But though the northern Indian women are incomparably the most virtuous, it is no unusual thing for their husbands to exchange beds with each other for a night. This, however, brings no disgrace ; but, on the contrary, is considered as the strongest cement of friendship between families ; and in each case of the death of either of the men, the other thinks himself bound to support the children of the deceased, and is never known to swerve from the duty of a parent. Thus we see how nearly virtues and vices are allied.

Though the northern Indians make no scruple of having two or three sisters for wives at the same time; yet they are very particular in observing a proper distance in the consanguinity of those whom they admit to their beds. The southern Indians, however, follow the most incestuous practices, without any sense of impropriety.

By the 1st of July, they were ready to proceed on their journey; and having determined the latitude of Congecathawhachaga to be 68 deg. 46 min. north, and long. 118 deg. 15 min. west. from London, they set out. At first the weather was extremely unpropitious, and they made little progress. on the 4th it became more temperate, and they walked over the Snowy Mountains, as they are called. At a distance, they resemble a confused heap of stones, utterly impassable; but under the guidance of the Copper Indians, who knew the best track, they passed them, though not without being obliged to crawl sometimes on their hands and knees.

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By the side of the path, in several places, were large flat stones, covered with many thousands of small pebbles, which the Copper Indians informed them had been gradually collected by passengers going to and from the mines. Of course they added to the heap.

As the snow, sleet, and rain, fell without intermission on the 5th, they halted; but next day they were able to advance about eleven miles to the north-west. Perceiving, however, the approach of a storm, they looked out for shelter among the rocks, as they had done the four preceding nights; having neither tents nor poles to erect them with.

Next morning several of the volunteers deserted them, being quite sick of the hardships they endured. For some days they had not been a moment dry; even at night, the water was constantly dropping from the rocks that hung over them, and formed their sole shelter from the inclemency of the weather. Except to light their pipes, it was impossible to kindle any fire.

Early on the morning of the 7th, they crawled from their recesses, and as the sun was hot, it soon melted the recent snow; and towards night they reached Musk Ox Lake, so called from the number of those animals they found on its margin. The Indians killed several of them; but as the flesh was lean, they only stripped the bulls for the sake of their hides.

This was the first time they had seen any of those animals, since they left the factory. In the high latitudes, however, many herds of them may be seen in the course of a day's walk. The number of bulls is very small in proportion to that of cows; so that there is every reason to believe they kill each other. They delight in the most stony and mountainous parts of the barren ground.

Though of considerable magnitude, and apparently little adapted for agility, they climb the rocks with the facility of goats; and like them, too, feed on every thing, moss, herbage, or browse.

The musk ox, when full grown, is about the ordinary size of English black

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cattle; but their legs are shorter and thicker. The tail is short, and always bent inwards, so that it is entirely hid in the long hair of the rump and hind quarters. The hunch on the shoulders is not very prominent; the hair, on some parts is very long, particularly on the bulls, under the throat, where it appears like a horse's mane inverted, and gives the animal a very formidable appearance. It is of this hair that the Esquimaux make their musketto wigs. Towards the approach of winter, they are provided with a fine thick wool, or fur, which grows at the root of the long hair, and shields them from the intense cold of that season, in this dreary climate. This covering of nature falls off and immediately a new one begins to appear.

The flesh of the musk ox resembles that of the moose or elk; the fat is a clear white, slightly tinged with azure. The calves and young heifers are good eating; but the flesh of the bulls smells and tastes so strong of musk, that it is al-

most intolerable. Even the knife that cuts the flesh of an old bull, will smell so strong, that nothing but scowering it can remove the scent. The organs of generation, however, and parts adjacent, are most strongly impregnated.

The weather being fine and moderate on the 8th, they walked about eighteen or twenty miles, and meeting with some deer, they kindled a fire, and made a better and more comfortable meal than they had done for a week. Their clothes too were now dried by the sun and wind, and they felt themselves in paradise, compared with their late situation.

That night they lay near Bear Grizzled Hill, which takes its name from the number of those animals that retire hither to bring forth their young in a cave. Our author having heard so much of this spot, he had the curiosity to view it.

He found nothing, however, to reward his labour, but a tumulus of loamy earth, in the middle of a marsh. There are several little hills of the same kind;

but the highest is not more than twenty feet above the level of the ground.

On the side of Grizzled Bear Hill is a large cave, which penetrates a considerable way into the rock, and may probably have been the labour of the bears, which have made numerous deep furrows in search of ground-squirrels and mice, which constitute a favourite part of their food.

The weather being very favourable on the 9th, they walked a great number of miles, and by the way saw plenty of deer and musk oxen. Next day, about noon, it became so hot and sultry, that walking was quite irksome; they therefore put up on the top of a high hill, and as the moss was then dry, they lighted a fire, and would have been comfortable in other respects, had not the moschettoes stung them in the most intolerable manner.

The subsequent day was also very sultry. After walking about ten miles, they fell in with a northern Indian leader, named Owl-Eye, and his family, in company with several Copper Indians,

killing deer with bows, arrows, and spears. Mr. Hearne smoked his calumet with these strangers, and found them much less sociable than their countrymen, whom he had formerly seen ; for though they had plenty of provisions, they would not part with a mouthful ; but on the contrary tried to rob and plunder them of every thing.

The 12th was so sultry, that they did not move ; but early next morning they set out forward, in hopes of reaching Copper-Mine River that day. However, having mounted a long chain of hills, at the foot of which they were told the river ran, they found it to be no more than a branch of it, which fell into the main stream about forty miles from its influx into the sea.

At this time all the Copper Indians were dispatched different ways, so that none of them knew the nearest road. Directing their course, however, by the side of this rivulet, in hopes of coming to the main stream, they fell in with several fine buck deer, which they killed, and feasted on with great glee.

After regaling themselves, and taking a few hours rest, they once more set forward, and after walking about ten miles, they arrived at the long-wish-for spot, the Copper-Mine River.

Scarcely had they arrived here, when they were joined by four of the natives with two canoes. They had seen all the Indians who had been sent to announce their approach, except Matonabee's brother and party, who had set out first.

Mr. Hearne was not only surprised, but mortified, to find the river so very different from the descriptions of it given at the factory. Instead of being navigable for shipping, as had been represented, it would scarcely swim an Indian canoe, being every where full of shoals and frequent falls.

Near the edge of the stream, which might be about one hundred and eighty yards broad, were some kinds of wood; but though it seemed to have been more plentiful formerly, there was very little in the vicinity, and none fit for any other purpose than the fire.

Soon after their arrival, three Indians were dispatched to look out for any Esquimaux who might be on the banks of the river; and every precaution was taken to prevent an alarm, that the destined victims might fall into their hands without apprehension.

On the morning of the 15th of July, Mr. Hearne began his survey, and proceeded down the river, which was every where full of shoals; and in some places vastly contracted in its breadth. Next day he advanced about ten miles farther, and found it the same.

Soon after they suspended the survey for the day, three spies returned, and reported that they had discovered five tents in the most favourable situation for a surprise. All attention to the business of the survey was now suspended; the whole thoughts of the Indians were absorbed in planning the best mode of attack, and of stealing on the poor savages, when asleep, and killing them all.

Having crossed the river in canoes, and got all the weapons in order, each

painted a part of his shield with some figure, generally the sun, moon, or some bird or beast of prey, in which they placed their reliance for success in the intended engagement.

From the hurry in which this business was executed, and the deficiency both of skill and colours, most of the paintings had little resemblance to any thing in heaven or on earth; but they satisfied the artists, and that was sufficient.

This piece of superstition being completed, they advanced towards the Esquimaux tents with the utmost caution and silence; and though an undisciplined rabble, and by no means accustomed to war, no sooner had they entered on this horrid scheme, than they acted with the utmost uniformity of sentiment. There was neither altercation nor contending opinion; all were united in the general cause, and as ready to follow as Matonabee to lead.

Never was a reciprocity of interest more generally regarded; and if ever the spirit of disinterested friendship a-

nimated the breast of a northern Indian, it was here displayed in glowing colours. Property of every kind ceased to be private: each was proud of an opportunity of supplying the wants of his neighbour.

The attacking party was judged to be quite as numerous as the Esquimaux in their five tents, could possibly be; and besides, being so much better equipped, nothing less than a miracle was likely to save the poor savages from a general massacre.

The land was so situated, that they walked under cover of the rocks and hills, till within two hundred yards of the tents. Here they halted, to watch the motions of the enemy, and would have persuaded our author to remain till the engagement was over.

But though he disclaimed having any interference in the deed of death, he thought it more prudent to accompany them; and the Indians were not a little gratified with his promptness to be of the party.

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The last ceremonies were now performed, which consisted in painting their faces; some black, some red, and others a mixture of the two. They next made themselves as light as possible for running, by almost stripping themselves naked. Mr. Hearne, fearing he might have occasion to run with the rest, pulled off his stockings and cap, and tied up his hair as closely as possible.

It was now near one in the morning\* of the 17th, when, finding the Esquimaux all still, they rushed from their ambuscade, and fell on the unsuspecting savages, who did not perceive their danger till it was too late to avoid it.

The scene was shocking beyond description. The unhappy victims were surpris'd in the middle of their sleep; men, women, and children, to the number of twenty, ran out of their tents stark naked, and endeavoured

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\* It is proper to observe, they were far within the arctic circle, where the sun never sets at this season of the year.

to fly; but the Indians had possession of the land side; and as they did not attempt to throw themselves into the river, the whole fell a sacrifice to unprovoked barbarity.

• Their shrieks were most dreadful; but no part of this bloody affair filled our author with deeper horror than the fate of a young girl, apparently about eighteen. She was stabbed so near him, that she fell down at his feet, and twisted round his legs; so that he could scarcely extricate himself from her dying grasp. He solicited hard for her life; but the murderers made no reply till they transfixed her with two spears. They then looked sternly at him, and in ridicule, asked him if he wanted an Esquimaux wife.

• Though the poor wretch was twining round their spears, they continued their taunts; when Mr. Hearne begged they would at least release her from her misery. On which one of them pierced her through the breast. The love of life, however, prompted her to attempt to ward off the blow,

*Elizabeth Hearne*

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which, in her situation, was the extreme of mercy to inflict.

“ My situation,” says our author, “ and the terror of my mind, at the sight of this butchery, can neither be conceived nor described. Though I summoned up all my resolution, it was with difficulty I could refrain from tears: even at this hour, I cannot reflect on the transactions of that horrid day, without the most painful emotions.”

But the brutality of these savages, to the bodies they had deprived of life, was still as shocking, and certainly more inexcusable. Their indecent curiosity in examining the conformation of the women, which they pretended to say differed from their own, made nature revolt at the idea.

When these people were all massacred, seven other tents on the other side of the river attracted their notice; but providentially for the Esquimaux, the baggage and canoes had been left some way up the river, and there was no other way of crossing it. The river

here was about eighty yards over, and to alarm them if they could not kill them, they began firing. The poor Esquimaux, though on the watch, were so much unacquainted with the nature of fire-arms, that they did not attempt to fly. When the bullet struck the ground, they ran with a vacant curiosity to see what it was. At length one of them was wounded in the leg, which immediately threw them into confusion. They ran to their canoes, and were soon out of the reach of the northern Indians.

Having plundered the tents of the deceased of all the copper vessels they could find, they assembled on the top of an adjacent hill, and forming a circle with their spears erect, clashed them together, and gave many shouts of victory; frequently calling out *tima!* *tima!* or what cheer, by way of derision to the poor surviving Esquimaux, who were standing almost knee deep in the water.

After parading for some time, they set out for their canoes, and sailing un-

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der cover of the bank, they approached the other tents, where the Esquimaux, thinking probably they were gone, had returned, and were busy in tying up bundles. These were seized, but the owners fortunately escaped again in their canoes, except one old man, who was too intent on his business, and who fell a sacrifice to their fury; for not fewer than twenty had a hand in his death.

As they were retreating from the first scene of blood, they found an old woman, sitting by the side of the river, killing salmon, which lay very thick at her feet. Whether from the noise of the fall, or a great defect in sight, she had not been apprized of the murder of her companions, though not more than two hundred yards distant from the scene of blood; nor did she discover her enemies, till they were just within reach of her.

To fly was in vain. She was pierced through with numerous spears, with the most marked and studied cruelty.

The only instrument that this poor half-blind wretch had to catch salmon with, was a light pole, armed with a few spikes, which she put under water, and pulled up with a jerk. Some of the Indians tried this method of fishing; and so extremely numerous were the salmon at this place, that they seldom brought up less than two at a pull.

These fish, though very fine and beautifully spotted red, were seldom more than about six or seven pounds weight; but their numbers were almost incredible, and equal to any thing related of the shoals in Kamfchatka. Indeed the Esquimaux have scarcely any other means of subsistence than fish.

After having plundered the second encampment, the northern Indians threw the tents into the river, and destroyed a large stock of provisions, merely from the infernal satisfaction of doing all the mischief in their power to the unhappy Esquimaux, who were standing on a distant shoal, the woful spectators of their loss.

This business being completed, they refreshed themselves; and then told Mr. Hearne, that they were again ready to assist him in the survey. He therefore instantly set about it, and pursued it to the mouth of the river, which was in every part so full of shoals and falls, as not to be navigable even by a boat. The tide happened to be out, and a bar evidently obstructed the very entrance of the stream. At the estuary of the river, the sea is full of islands and shoals, as far as the telescope can reach. The ice, though it was the 17th of July, was only partially broken up round the shores.

Finding, after all his labour, that this river was unfit for being the channel of any commercial intercourse; and a thick fog and drizzling rain coming on, he did not wait to take an exact observation for determining the latitude, but immediately set out with his attendants, on his return to the southward.

However, before we proceed, it will be proper to give a more particular

account of the river and the country adjacent. Besides some stunted pines, there are tufts of dwarf willows on the banks, plenty of what is called wishacumpucky, some jackasheypuck, and a few cranberries and heathberry bushes; but not the least appearance of any fruit. Even this scanty vegetation decreases as the river approaches the sea; and for the last thirty miles, nothing is to be seen but barren hills and marshes, some patches of herbage, and at the foot of the hills fine scurvy-grass.

The general direction of the river is nearly north by east, and its breadth varies from twenty to four or five hundred yards. The banks are generally a solid rock; both sides of which correspond, and furnish an irrefragable proofs that the channel was formed by some violent convulsion of nature.

Some of the Indians pretend that the Copper-Mine River takes its rise from the north side of Large White Stone Lake, which is distant three hundred miles in a straight line; but our

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author cannot think that its source is so remote, otherwise he conceives its volume must be infinitely greater than it is.

The Esquimaux, who reside on this river, are rather low in stature, and though thick set, are neither well made nor strong. Their complexion is a dirty copper colour, though some of the women are more fair. Their dress resembles that of the Greenlanders in Davis's Straights, except that the women's boots are not stiffened out with whalebone, and the tails of their jackets are much shorter.

Their arms and fishing tackle exactly resemble those of their nation in Hudson's Straights, but for want of edge-tools, are inferior in workmanship.

Their tents are made of parchment deer skins in the hair, and are pitched in a circular form. In winter, however, they have huts half underground, rising and pointed like a cone: these are always erected in the most sheltered situations.

Their domestic utensils consist of stone kettles and wooden troughs; dishes, scoops, and spoons made of the horns of the musk ox. Some of their kettles are capable of containing five or six gallons, and are hollowed out in the form of an oblong square, with no other instrument than a harder stone to work with.

Their hatchets are made of a thick lump of copper, about five or six inches long, and about two inches square, bevelled away like a mortice-chissel, with a handle about a foot, or more, in length. Neither the weight nor the sharpness will admit of the tool being used with much success by itself, and therefore it is generally applied to the wood like a chissel, and driven in with a heavy club.

The spears and knives are also made of copper, and among the spoils of twelve tents, only two small pieces of iron were found.

These people had a fine breed of dogs, with sharp erect ears, sharp noses and bushy tails. They were all tied to

stones, probably to prevent them from eating the fish that was spread out to dry on the rocks. The Indians did not meddle with those animals; but after they had retired, lamented they had not brought off some of them for use.

Though there appeared scarcely any difference between these people and the natives of Hudson's Bay, in their general appearance and domestic economy, yet as the former had all the hair of their heads pulled out by the roots, they might safely be pronounced of a different tribe.

Near the mouth of the Copper-Mine River they saw many seals on the ice, and flocks of marine fowls flying about the shores. In the adjacent pools were also swans and geese in a moulting state, and in the marshes some curlews and plovers.

That the musk oxen, deer, bears, wolves, foxes, alpine hares, and various other quadrupeds, are the constant denizens of this coast, is a fact that may be dependrd on. Mr. Hearne did not see any bird peculiar to those parts,

except what the Copper Indians call the Alarm Bird. It appears to be of the owl genus; and its name is said to be well adapted to its qualities. When it descries either man or beast, it directs its flight towards them, and hovering over them, forms gyrations round their head. Should two objects at once arrest their attention, they fly from the one to the other alternately, making a loud screaming, like the crying of a child. In this manner they will follow travellers a whole day.

The Copper Indians have a great value for these birds, as they frequently indicate the approach of strangers, or conduct them to the herds of deer and musk oxen, which, without such assistance, they might possibly miss.

Unfortunately, however, for the Esquimaux, they do not seem to place the same faith in the alarm bird. If they had, they must necessarily have been apprized of the approach of the northern Indians, as all the time they lay in ambush, before the massacre began, a flock of them was continually

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flying about, and alternately hovering over the tents of the assailants.

But to return. Having walked about thirty miles south eastward of the river, they came to one of the copper mines, if it deserves that appellation. It is no more than a jumble of rocks and gravel, which have been rent by an earthquake, and through which rolls a small stream.

The Indians, whose partial accounts gave rise to this expedition, represented the mine as so immensely rich, that a ship might be ballasted with the ore instead of stone, with perfect facility; and that the hills were entirely composed of that metal, all in portable lumps. After a search of four hours, however, Mr. Hearne and his attendants could find only one piece of copper of any size, and that did not weigh more than four pounds. Yet it seems probable, that this metal has formerly been in much greater plenty, as the rocks and stones are every where tinged with verdigrease.

There is a singular tradition among the natives, that a woman first discovered those mines, and that she conducted her countrymen to the spot for several years successively; but as some of them attempted to behave rudely to her, she made a vow of revenge, and being a great conjurer, she put it in effect. When the men had loaded themselves with copper, she refused to return; and said she would sit on the mine till she sunk into the ground with all the copper. Next year, when the men went for their annual supply, she had sunk down to the waist, though still alive, and the copper was vastly diminished; and on their repeating their visit the following year, she had quite disappeared, and all the principal part of the mine with her; so that after that period, nothing remained on the surface but a few small pieces.\*

\* In this tradition the circumstances of the copper mines appear to be ingeniously veiled. At first, large lumps of metal were found on the surface of the earth; by degrees that was carried away; and afterwards none was to be had,

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Before Churchill River was settled by the Hudson's Bay Company, the northern Indians had very little iron work among them: almost every implement was made of copper; and to this spot they annually resorted, till this metal began to fail, and they found other resources, of a superior kind. Yet to this day, the Copper Indians prefer their native ore for almost every use, except that of the hatchet, the knife, and the awl.

The Copper and Dog-ribbed Indians, lying so remote from the factory, generally use the intermediate tribes as brokers or chapmen; and in consequence pay very dearly for every European article they stand in need of. Several attempts, it seems, have been made to induce those distant nations to traffic immediately with the Hudson's Bay Company, at the fort; but though

except by digging in the bowels of the earth. From our author's description, there is little doubt but that there are rich mines to be found here; but of what use would they be, when there is no means of conveyance for the ore?

liberal presents have been given to those who had the resolution to venture so far, both for themselves and their chiefs, the northern Indians have constantly plundered them of everything, before they could reach their homes. This hard treatment, added to the many inconveniences that attend so long a journey, are great obstacles in their way, and will ever prevent a direct and regular communication between the English and them.

Soon after they left the copper mine, a thick fog, with rain, and at intervals, heavy showers of snow, came on. This kind of weather continued for some days, and rendered their progress very slow and unpleasant.

Early on the morning of the 22d of July, they were overtaken by Matonabee's brother and a Copper Indian. They had visited the Copper River, but met with no remarkable incident; and observing signals, which had been left for their return, they had travelled one hundred miles without stopping. The whole party immediately

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set out, and proceeded homewards upwards of forty miles that day.

The weather now became hot and sultry; but this did not occasion any delay in their march; and they made such good use of their time, that, on the 24th, they reached Congecathawhachaga, where the women had been left; but, to their mortification, they found that they had crossed the river, and were gone on.

Observing a great smoke to the southward, Mr. Hearne and his party immediately proceeded towards it, and when they reached the place, they again were disappointed; for though the women had been there a few days before, they had left it, and set fire to the moss, which was still burning. Their track, however, was visible, and early on the morning of the 25th they came up with them, by the side of Cogead Lake.

From the time they had left the Copper-Mine River, they had travelled so hard and with so little intermission,

that Mr. Hearne's feet and legs were considerably swelled, and his ankles were become quite stiff. The nails of his toes were likewise so much injured, that several of them dropped off; and before he came up to the tents of the women, almost every step was printed in blood. Even the natives began to complain; but none of them were nearly so bad as he was.

As soon as he arrived at the women's encampment, he immediately set about bathing and cleaning his feet; and by the assistance of a common dressing and rest, he was likely in a short time to get well. Rest, however, so essential to his recovery, was not to be procured; for, after halting a day, the Indians resumed their march, and he was obliged to follow them.

On the 31st they reached the spot where the greatest number of the women, and all the children were to wait their return. Here they found several Indian tents; but none of Matonabee's party had arrived. However, a smoke being seen to the eastward, two

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young men were sent in quest of them; and on the 5th of August, they all joined, with a number of other Indians, so that they now filled forty tents. Here the former husband of one of Matonabee's wives, who had eloped, brought her back again; but the chief had the magnanimity to take no notice of her, and bade her depart; observing that if she had respected him as she ought, she would not have left him, and therefore she was free to go where she pleased. The woman affected concern and reluctance, though most assuredly it was not sincere. She returned to her husband's tent, and probably both were happy.

Several of the Indians being indisposed, the conjurers, who are always the doctors, began to try their skill to effect their recovery. No medicine, save charms, is used for any complaint, whether external or internal. In ordinary cases, sucking the diseased part, blowing, and singing to it, spitting, and uttering much unintelligible jargon, compose the process of the cure.

For complaints in the bowels, it is common to see those jugglers blowing up the anus till their eyes are almost ready to start from their sockets; and this operation is performed without regard to age or sex. The accumulation of so large a quantity of wind is apt, at times, to occasion some extraordinary emotions in the patient; and it is a laughable scene, in such cases, to see the doctor and the sick person; the one blowing up wind, and the other easing nature, perhaps at one and the same moment.

When a friend, for whom they have a particular regard, is supposed to be dangerously ill, they occasionally have recourse to another very extraordinary piece of superstition, namely swallowing hatchets, knives, or the like.

On these occasions a conjuring house is erected, by driving the ends of four small poles into the ground, the tops of which are tied together, and then covered with a tent cloth, with a little aperture at top to admit the light. In the middle of this tent, the patient is

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laid ; and sometimes five or six conjurers, quite naked, enter ; and securing the door, kneel round the sick, and begin to suck and blow the part affected. After a short process of this kind, they sing and talk as if conversing with familiar spirits, which they pretend actually appear to them in the form of beasts, or birds of prey.

Having finished this ideal conference, they call for the hatchet, bayonet, or the like, which is always prepared by another person, and has a string fastened to one end, to assist in drawing it up again, after they have swallowed it ; for they do not pretend to be able to digest, or pass it.

Our author now saw an experiment of this kind. A man being dangerously ill, and some extraordinary experiments being judged necessary, one of the conjurers consented to swallow a broad bayonet. The house was erected as before mentioned, the invocations took place ; and the bayonet being called for, it disappeared in the twinkling of an eye. Mr. Hearne says, he is

not credulous enough to suppose that the juggler actually swallowed it; but he confesses, he could see nothing but the small piece of wood at the end of the string, or one similar to it, between his teeth.

The juggler then paraded backward and forward for a short time, when he feigned to be greatly disordered in his stomach and bowels; and after many wry faces and hideous groans, by the help of the string and some tugging, he at length produced the bayonet, apparently from his mouth, to the no small surprise of the spectators. He then looked round with an air of exultation, and retiring into the conjuring house, renewed his incantations, which he continued without intermission for the space of twenty-four hours.

Our author admits he was not able to detect the deception, more particularly as it was performed by a naked man; and the natives themselves seemed to exult at this triumph, as they supposed it, over his former incredulity. The sick man soon recovered; and

in a few days they proceeded to the south-west; while the greatest part of the stranger Indians left them.

On the 19th, they reached the side of Large White Stone Lake, which is about forty miles long. This is supposed by some to be the source of the Copper-Mine River; a circumstance which Mr. Hearne can neither verify nor contradict.

They found deer plentiful the whole way; and many were killed for the sake of their skins only. The great destruction which is annually made among these animals is almost incredible; yet there appears no diminution of their numbers; but in some places, they are even said to be more plentiful than formerly.

It requires the prime part of eight or ten deer skins, to make a complete suit of clothes for a grown person, during winter; and all must be procured in the month of August, or early in September, else the hair will drop off with the slightest injury.

Besides the skins with the hair on, each person wants several others to be dressed in leather, for stockings, shoes, and light summer clothing. Several more are also employed in a parchment state to make thongs, or netting, for various purposes; so that each individual expends, in the course of a year, upwards of twenty deer skins, in clothing and other domestic uses, exclusive of tent clothes and bags.

Indeed, during winter, the spare skins produce a number of warbles, which the natives pick out and eat as common food. Some of them are as large as the joint of a finger; and the children, in particular, are very fond of them. Mr. Hearne says, that, except these warbles and body lice, he has tasted of every dish in use among the natives; but though he did not pretend to be over delicate, he never could bring himself to eat them.

The deer in those regions, are indeed generally in motion from east to west, or from west to east, according to the season, and the prevailing winds.

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This is the principal reason why the northern Indians are always shifting their stations; for as deer are their chief food, and their skins are indispensable, it is impossible for them to exist long at a distance from their game.

After leaving Stone White Lake, they proceeded to the south-west, at the rate of about twelve miles a day; and, on the 3d of September, arrived at a small river connected with Point Lake. Here the weather was so boisterous, that it was some days before they could venture to cross it in their canoes; but the time of the Indians was not lost by this interruption, as they killed numbers of deer, as well for their skins as their flesh.

In the afternoon of the 7th, they passed the river, and shaped their course by the side of Point Lake to the north-west. After three days easy journeys, they came to a scrubby wood, which was the first of any magnitude they had seen for upwards of three months.

One of the Indian women, who had been some time in a lingering state, was now become so weak as to be incapable of travelling, which, among those people is the most deplorable situation to which a human being can be reduced. No expedients were tried for her recovery, whether for want of friends, or from the supposed inability of it, is unknown; and she was inhumanly left, unassisted, to her fate.

This, it appears, is a common practice, shocking as it is; and they justify it by saying, that it is better to leave one who is past recovery, than for the whole family to sit down and starve in the same place. On such occasions, however, the friends, or the relations of the sick, generally leave some victuals and water, and often a little firing, with plenty of deer skins. They then walk away crying, without mentioning the road they mean to pursue.

Instances have occurred of such deserted persons recovering, and regaining their friends. The poor woman, just mentioned, thrice came up to the

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party; but at last her strength totally failed her—she dropped behind, and was noticed no more.

A custom so unnatural is not often found among the human race; but the northern Indians are certainly not the only savages in this respect; and they have a better excuse, from the necessity they are under to be active during the favourable season, than any other people who are guilty of this violation of all social feeling.

The early part of September gave indications that winter was approaching; and being now got among the woods, the Indians purposed halting for some time, to dress their skins for winter clothing, and to furnish themselves with tent poles, snow shoes, and temporary sledges.

Towards the middle of the month, the weather became more mild and open, and continued so for several days; but they had almost incessant rain. On the 28th, the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew so cold, that in two days all the lakes and standing waters

were frozen over, hard enough to bear them without danger.

October commenced with heavy falls of snow and much drift. On the 6th, the wind blew with so much violence as to overset several of the tents, and among the rest, that in which Mr. Hearne lodged. By this misfortune, his quadrant, though well secured, was so much damaged as to be entirely useless; and he, therefore, divided its fragments among the Indians.

On the 23d, several Copper and Dog-ribbed Indians arrived at the tents, as it appeared, by previous appointment, and sold their furs for such articles of iron as the northern Indians had in their possession. One of the Indians in Mr. Hearne's party, got forty beavers' skins, and sixty martins', for a single piece of iron, which he had found means to purloin the last time he visited the fort.

One of the strangers brought forty beaver skins, with which he intended to pay Matonabee an old debt; but one of the other Indians seized the

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whole, notwithstanding he knew for whom they were designed; and this irritated the chief so much, that he renewed his resolution of retiring to the Athapusco Indians. Our author did not now much interfere in his determination, though he told him that he thought such behaviour uncivil, especially in a man of his rank and dignity; but he discovered afterwards, that they all intended to take a hunting expedition into that country, for the sake of the moose and the beaver, which are either very scarce, or never seen in the northern Indian territories.

Indeed, except a few martins, wolves, quick-hatches, foxes, and otters, are the chief furs to be met with in those parts; and, out of some superstitious notion, few of the northern Indians chuse to kill either the wolf or the quick-hatch, which they suppose to be more than common animals.

By the end of October, all their clothes and winter implements were ready, and they once more began to

move. From the 1st to the 5th of November they walked over the ice of a large lake, which as it had no appellation before, our author called No Name Lake. This sheet of water, or rather of ice, as it then was, is about fifty miles long and thirty-five broad. It is said to abound with fine fish; and in the state it then was, the Indians caught some fine trout and perch.

Having passed this lake, they shaped their course to the south-west, and on the 10th reached the commencement of the main woods, when they prepared their proper sledges, and proceeded again to the south-west. No game was killed for some time, except a few partridges; however, they had by no means exhausted their stock of provisions.

After passing Methy Lake, and walking near eighty miles on a small river that issues from it, on the 20th they reached Indian Lake. This piece of water, though not more than twenty miles over, is celebrated for producing plenty of fine fish even in winter; and

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accordingly the Indians set their nets with such success, that in about ten days they laded the women's sledges with roes only. Tittimeg, barbel, and pike were the only fish they caught here. Two pounds weight of roes, well bruised, will make four gallons of excellent soup, very pleasant to the eye, as well as the palate.

The land round this lake is very hilly, and consists chiefly of loose stones and rocks. However, there are some parts well clothed with poplars, pines, fir, and birch. Rabbits were so plentiful here, that several of the Indians caught twenty or thirty in a night with snares; and wood partridges were no less numerous in the trees. The flesh of the latter is generally black and bitter, from their feeding on the brush of the fir tree.

During their stay at Indian Lake, a man being entirely palsied on one side, the doctors, or rather conjurers, set about curing him; and the person who had swallowed a bayonet in the summer, now offered to swallow a piece of

board, as large as a barrel stave, for his recovery.

After the usual preparatory ceremonies, the board was delivered to the conjurer, who apparently shoved one-third of it down his throat, and then walked round the company, continuing to swallow it, till no part was visible, except a small piece of the end.

As our author had doubted the former trial of his skill, the Indians to cure his unbelief, gave him the most favourable station for seeing the exploit performed; but still, though he could not be convinced of what was in itself impossible, he was unable to detect the imposition.

Soon after, being questioned as to his opinion of the performance, as he was unwilling to offend by owning his sentiments that it was a juggle, he only hinted at the impossibility of swallowing a piece of wood longer than the man's whole back, and twice as wide as his mouth. On this some of them laughed at him for his ignorance: and said, that the spirits in waiting

swallowed, or otherwise conveyed away, the stick, and only left the forked end apparently sticking out of the conjurer's mouth. Matonabee, tho' a man of sense and observation, was so bigotted to the reality of those feats, that he assured Mr. Hearne he had seen a man swallow a child's cradle with as much ease as he could fold up a piece of paper and put it in his mouth.

Though they pretend that the whole is done by the intervention of spirits, and that each conjurer has his familiar to assist him, who appears in various forms, there can be no doubt of the deception; but still it is admirably performed.

As soon as the conjurer had finished the swallowing remedy, five other men and an old woman, all proficient in the art, stripped quite naked, and entered with him into the conjuring house, where they began to suck, blow, sing, and dance round the poor paralytic; and continued this farce for three days and as many nights, without intermission, or taking the least refreshment.

At last, when they came out, their mouths were quite parched and black, and they were not able to articulate a single syllable. They laid themselves on their backs with their eyes fixed, as if in the agonies of death; and for the first day were treated like young children, by being fed by hand.

The paralytic, however, had not only recovered his appetite, but was able to move all the fingers and toes of the side that had been so long dead. In three weeks he could walk; and at the end of six went a hunting for his family. After that he accompanied Mr. Hearne to the fort, and frequently visited the factory during the following years. But his nature seemed quite changed; for from being lively, benevolent, and good-natured, he became pensive, quarrelsome, and discontented; and never recovered the look of health.

Though the reality of the deception performed by the Indian conjurers must be unquestionable, the apparent good effects of their charms on the sick and

diseased, can only be accounted for on the principle of faith in the patient, which sets the mind at ease, and inspires hope, so essential to the well-being of man.

As a proof of the implicit confidence which is placed in the supernatural powers of these jugglers, even the threat of revenge on any person that has offended them is often fatal. The very idea that the conjurer possesses the means of destruction, preys on the spirits of the unhappy victims of his ill-will, and soon brings on a disorder that terminates his existence. A whole family has some times sunk into the grave, merely from the fancied dread of a conjurer's resentment.

Mr. Hearne says, the natives always thought him possessed of this art; and, accordingly, he was once solicited to kill a man, who had offended a chief, and who was then several hundred miles off. To please his friend, he drew some rude figures on a bit of paper, and gave it to the Indian, who wished for the destruction of his enemy. But what

was our author's surprize to hear the next year, that the man, who was then in perfect health, being acquainted with his design against him, almost immediately sickened, and died. He was frequently afterwards importuned to execute revenge on others; but having once established his character by this fatal instance of Indian credulity, he never complied, in future, with such requests. However, this gained him credit with the natives, and served to keep them in awe, when he was afterwards chief of the fort.

They left Indian Lake on the 1st of December, and directing their course to the southward, they arrived on the north side of the great Athapusco Lake, on the 24th. In their way they saw many deer and beaver, plenty of which the Indians killed. The days now were so short, that the sun only took a circuit of a few points of the compass above the horizon; but the brilliancy of the aurora borealis and the stars, even without the assistance of the moon, made some amends for that deficiency, and

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were sufficient to enable them to hunt the beaver, though not the deer or moose.

In the high northern latitudes, every variation of the colour or position of the aurora borealis is attended with a rustling and crackling noise, like the waving of a large flag in a fresh gale of wind. As this phenomenon is solved on the principle of electricity, it is sufficient to notice it, to make it intelligible to the scientific.

Indian deer, as they are called, the only species found in these parts, except the moose, are vastly larger than those which frequent the barren grounds in the territories of the northern Indians. Their hair is of a sandy red colour during winter; their horns, though stronger, are less branching than the other kind; and their flesh is more coarse, but still excellent food.

The beaver, however, was here the grand object of the Indians' attention, both on account of its flesh and fur. Much as Europeans have heard about

this animal, which according to some, is almost a rational being, Mr. Hearne has set the public right in various particulars respecting it; and detected the ignorance, or intentional falsity, of other writers on this subject, in numerous instances.

He says, the situation of the beaver houses is various. Where these animals are very plentiful, they are found to inhabit lakes, ponds, and rivers, as well as the narrow creeks which connect the lakes. In general, however, they prefer the rivers and creeks, on account of the advantage of the current, to float the materials for their habitations.

Such as build their houses in small rivers and creeks, which are liable to become dry, shew an admirable instinct in providing against this calamity, by throwing a dam quite across the stream; and in nothing do they shew more ability and foresight than in this, whatever sagacity some are ready to allow them.

These dams are constructed of drift wood, green willows, birch, and poplar, mud and stones, or whatever materials can most readily be procured. Their houses are also made of similar articles, and always proportioned in size to the number of inhabitants, which seldom exceed four old, and six or eight young ones. It is a mistake, however, to say, that they have different apartments for their necessary conveniences; all that the beaver seems to aim at, is to have a dry place to lie on.

It, indeed, frequently happens, that some of the large houses have one or more partitions; but between the inhabitants of these, no more than a social intercourse is kept up; nor have they any common communication but by water.

The accounts we read, in some books, respecting the manner in which the beavers build their houses and dams, Mr. Hearne assures us, are mere fictions. They can neither drive piles, wattle their buildings, saw trees, nor use their tails as a trowel. Yet their fa-

gacity is not small; and they perform all that can be expected from animals of their size and strength.

Their work is entirely executed in the night, and they are so expeditious in completing it, that our author says, he has frequently been astonished to see the quantity of mud they had collected in one night, or the progress they had made in a dam or house.

The chief food is a root resembling a cabbage stalk, which grows at the bottom of lakes and rivers, and which is accessible to them at all seasons. They are also fond of the bark of trees during the summer, and such kinds of herbage and berries as the vicinity supplies.

When the ice breaks up in the spring, the beavers quit their habitations, and rove about during the summer, probably in quest of a more favourable situation; but if they cannot suit themselves better, they return to their old habitations soon enough to lay in their winter stock of woods.

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Notwithstanding what has been repeatedly reported, in regard to their forming towns and commonwealths, Mr. Hearne says he is confident, that even where the greatest number of beavers are assembled together, their labours are not carried on jointly, nor have they any mutuality of interests, except in supporting the dam, which is common to several houses. In such cases they have, no doubt, sagacity enough to see that what is of utility to all, should be repaired by the labours of each.

The beaver is capable of keeping a long time under water; so that when their houses are broken up, and their retreats cut off, they generally retire to the vaults in the banks, as their last resource; and here the greatest number of them are taken.

In winter they are very fat and delicious eating, and their furs are very valuable; but in summer, during the breeding time, and when they are roving about, neither their flesh nor their

kins are of much consequence. They produce from two to five young at a time; and though several varieties of them are mentioned, it is most probable, that the difference of season alone occasions the apparent distinction.\*

The beaver is a remarkably cleanly animal; and is capable of being, in a great measure domesticated. Mr. Hearne kept several of them, that answered to their names, and followed him and fondled on him like dogs. He had a house built for them, and a small piece of water before the door, into which they always plunged when they wanted to ease nature. In winter they lived on the common food of the natives, and were remarkably fond of rice and plum pudding. They would even eat partridges and venison freely; and were the constant attendants on the Indian women and children, for whom they shewed a great partiality, and were always uneasy in their absence.

\* Linnæus describes three species of beavers, which appear to be distinct.

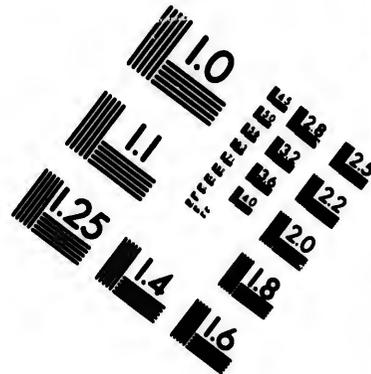
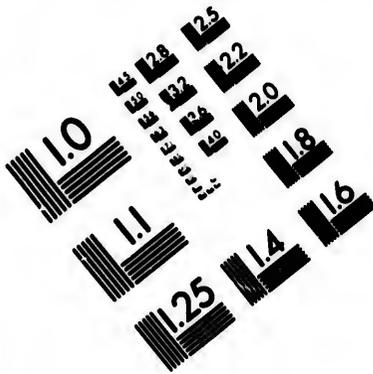
After appropriating several days to hunting beaver, they proceeded across the Athapusco Lake, in the beginning of January 1772, and arrived on the south side of it on the 9th. From the best information, this lake appears to be about one hundred and twenty leagues long, from east to west, and twenty wide, from north to south. It is full of islands, most of which are clothed with trees, and stocked with Indian deer.

This lake produces vast quantities of fish, such as pike, trout, perch, barbel, tittameg, and methy: the two last species of fish are peculiar to this country, and the shees, a fish resembling a pike, to this lake only.

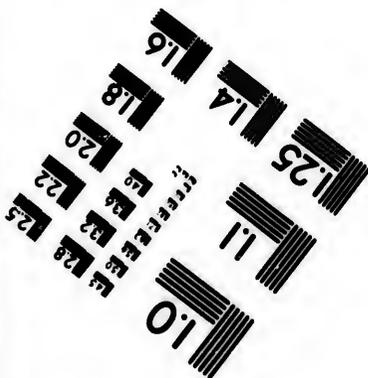
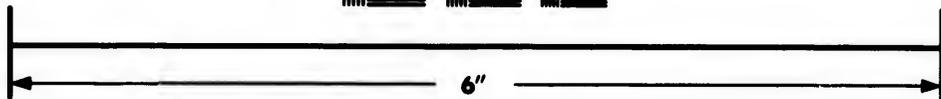
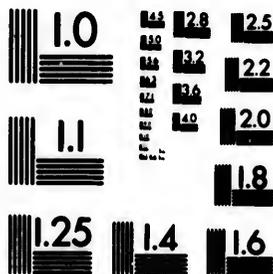
The trout here weigh commonly from thirty-five to forty pounds. Pike are also of an incredible size.

On reaching the south side of this lake, they found the scene very agreeably altered. Instead of an entire jumble of rocks and hills, they entered on a fine champaign country, where scarcely a stone was to be seen.





**IMAGE EVALUATION  
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



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Buffalo, moose, and beaver were very abundant; and in many places they could discover the tracks of martins, foxes, quickhatches, and other animals of the fur kind. The three former animals, however, were the sole objects of the Indians pursuit, perhaps principally on account of the excellency of their flesh.

The buffaloes appear much larger than the English black cattle, particularly the bulls. Their skin is of an incredible thickness, particularly about the neck; the horns are black, short, and almost straight, but very thick at the base. The tail is only about a foot long; and the hair of the body is soft and curled, generally of a sandy brown colour.

The flesh of this animal is entirely free from any disagreeable smell or flavour, and is equal to the finest beef. The hunch is reckoned a very delicate bit. The tongue also is much esteemed.

The moose deer often exceeds the largest horse, both in height and bulk; but the length of the legs, the short-

ness of the neck, and the disproportionate size of the head and ears, give them a very awkward appearance; and prevent them from grazing on level ground like other animals. In summer, they browse on the tops of large vegetables, and the leaves of trees; and in winter, they subsist entirely on the small branches of the willow and birch trees.

They are the most inoffensive of all animals, and never attempt resistance. It is nothing unusual for an Indian to paddle his canoe up to one of them, and take it by the poll without opposition. They are easily tamed; and Mr. Hearne says, he has seen some of them that would follow their keeper, and in every thing obey his voice.

The flesh of the moose is good, tho' rather coarser and tougher than other venison. The nose and tongue are peculiar delicacies. All the external fat is soft, and when put into a bladder, is as fine as marrow.

In all its actions and attitudes, the moose appears very uncouth; its gait is

shambling, and it is both tender footed and short winded. The skin makes excellent tent-covers and shoe-leather, and is dressed for various other purposes.

On the 11th of January, as some of the Indians were engaged in hunting, they discovered the track of a strange snow shoe, and tracing it, they came to a little hut, where they found a young woman alone. She proved to be one of the western Dog-ribbed Indians, who had been taken prisoner by those of Athapusco, in the summer of 1770, and had eloped from them the following season, when they were in the vicinity, with an intention of returning to her own country; but the distance being so great, she had forgot the track, and had therefore, built a hut for her protection, in which she had lived about seven moons, without seeing a human face.

During this time she had supported herself by snaring partridges, rabbits, and squirrels. That she had not been in want was evident from her appearance, and the stock of provisions she had still by her. Of a real Indian, she

was one of the finest women, in our author's opinion, of any he ever saw.

She had shewn infinite ingenuity in procuring a livelihood. When the few deer sinews she had carried off with her, were all expended in making snares, and sewing her clothes; she had used those of the legs of rabbits with much dexterity and success. Of the skins of those animals, she had likewise made herself a complete and neat suit of winter clothes; and it was evident, she had extended her care beyond mere comfort; as her dress exhibited no little variety of ornament.

Her leisure hours had been employed in twisting the inner rind of willows into small lines, of which she intended to make a fishing net. Five or six inches of an iron hoop served her for a knife, and this, together with an awl of the same metal, were all the implements in her possession. She lighted a fire by rubbing two hard sulphureous stones against each other, and when a few sparks were produced, she had touchwood ready to receive them.

The comeliness of her person, and her approved accomplishments, occasioned a strong contest among the party, who should have her to wife; and she was actually won and lost by almost ten men the same evening. Matonabee, though he had no less than seven, women grown, and a young girl about twelve years old, wished to put in his claim for her: but one of his wives shamed him from this, by observing, that he had women enough already. This piece of satire, however true it might be, irritated the chief so much, that he fell upon the poor creature, and bruised her so excessively, that after lingering some time, she escaped from his tyranny and life.

It appeared that when the Athapusco Indians surpris'd the friends of the young woman, they had butchered them all, except herself and three other women. Among the victims of their barbarity were her father, mother, and husband. She had a child about four months old, which she concealed in a bundle of clothing, and car-

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ried with her ; but when they joined the Athapusco women, one of them snatched it from her, and killed it on the spot. Her new husband, she said, was remarkably fond of her, and kind to her ; but this piece of barbarity she could never forget, and took the first opportunity of eloping from the murderers of her infant. Affecting as this story was, and told at the same time with correspondent feeling, Mr. Hearne says, his party only laughed at it, and turned it into ridicule.

Continuing their course to the southwest, on the 16th they arrived at the Grand Athapusco River, at a place where it was about two miles wide. The surrounding woods were very luxuriant; and the banks of the river were nearly one hundred feet above the ordinary level of the water. The soil was rich and loamy, and some of the pines that grew here, were large enough to make masts for ships of the first rate. In the river are several islands, much frequented by the moose deer.

Agreeably to Matonabee's proposal, they continued their march up this river for many days, in hopes of falling in with some of the natives; but tho' they saw several of their former encampments, they did not discover one of the people. Thus disappointed in their expectations, it was resolved to spend as much time in hunting the moose, buffalo, and beaver, as could be allowed, consistent with their purposed return to the fort, by the usual period of the ships' arrival from England.

Accordingly, on the 27th of January, they directed their course to the eastward; but as game was very plentiful, they made frequent halts.

About the middle of February, they walked along a small river, which empties itself into Lake Clowey, where they had built their canoes the year before. On the 24th, they were joined by a northern Indian leader and his followers, who presented Matonabee and our author, with some roll tobacco and about two quarts of brandy. The to-

bacco was very acceptable, as their stock of that article had been long expended.

As this vicinity abounded in game, many days were spent in hunting, feasting, and preparing such a quantity of flesh, as might serve them for some time; well knowing, from experience, that a few days walk farther to the eastward, would deprive them of the living animals.

The strangers who had left the fort, about November 1771, soon proceeded on their journey to the north-westward, except a few who had been lucky in hunting, and resolved to accompany them back to the factory, to dispose of their furs.

On the last day of February, they resumed their journey; and soon after the Indians fell in with a party of poor inoffensive people, whom they plundered of all they had, and even carried off some of their young women. These repeated acts of violent and unprovoked aggression, served to increase our author's indignation; and he felt very

sensibly for this in particular, as it was committed on a set of harmless creatures, who were almost secluded from all other human society.

It appeared that for upwards of a generation, one family only, as it may be called, had taken up their winter abode in those woods; which are so much out of the usual track of the other Indians, as to be very seldom visited by them. The situation, however, was most favourable for game of every kind, at the different seasons; but the general dependence was on fish and partridges. These advantages had tempted this simple race to take up their abode here; several hundred miles from the rest of their tribe.

By the 1st of March they began to leave the level country of the Athapuscoc, and to approach the stony mountains, which bound the northern Indian country. On the 14th, they discovered the tracks of more strangers, and next day came up with them. Among them was a person who had carried a letter from Mr. Hearne to Prince of

Wales Fort, about a year before; and now accidentally met him, and returned an answer, dated in June 1771.

These Indians having obtained a few furs, joined their party, which now consisted of about two hundred persons. Our author found great reason to lament the loss of his quadrants, as he was unable to ascertain distances and situations, however desirable it would have been both for curiosity and information, in a country which no other European ever traversed.

On the 19th, they took up their lodgings near Large Pike Lake, which they crossed next day, where it was not more than seven miles wide. The subsequent day they passed Bedodid Lake, which is about forty miles long and only three broad; so that it has the appearance of a river. The Indians said it was shut up on all sides by high lands, covered with pines of vast magnitude, compared to which, the European firs are only like fruit trees.

The thaws now commenced, and from the latter end of March to the middle of April, they were considerable about noon; but it commonly froze at night, and walking was by no means pleasant. The moose deer now began to become very scarce. On the 12th of April, they saw several swans flying to the northward, which being birds of passage, were considered as the harbingers of spring.

On the 14th, they pitched their tents on Theelee-aza River, where they found some families of strange northern Indians, employed in snaring deer; and so poor, that they had not a gun among them. The villains, however, in our author's party, so far from administering to them relief, robbed them of every useful article, and abused some of their young women in a manner too shocking to mention, in spite of all the remonstrances he could make.

Deer being plentiful near this spot, they halted here ten days, in order to prepare and dry a quantity of the flesh to carry with them.

The thaw now was so considerable that some bare land appeared; and the ice on the streams began to break up.

On the 25th, as the weather was very inviting, they again set out; but on the 1st of May, a heavy fall of snow came on, attended with a bitter gale of wind, which increased to such a degree, that they were incapable of standing upright, and the cold was extremely piercing.

The second proved fine with warm sunshine; and having dried their wet clothes, they proceeded to the place where it was intended to build their canoes; but in consequence of a dispute between Matonabee and some of his countrymen, he determined to travel farther to the eastward before they set about this necessary duty.

For some days the weather was hot and pleasant. On the 6th, they fell in with some strange Indians, who were proceeding to the factory with their furs; and on the invitation of Matonabee, they joined company.

After a rest of four days, it was agreed on to leave the elderly people and young children here, in the care of some Indians, till the return of their relations from the fort. Matters being thus settled, they set out on the 11th, at a much brisker pace than before; and in the afternoon of the same day, overtook some more Indians laden with furs.

The 12th was so warm, and the water so deep on the top of the ice, as to render walking on it, not only unpleasant, but dangerous. It was, therefore, found necessary to construct their canoes without delay; and this business being accomplished by the 18th, they proceeded through swamps of mud, water, and wet snow, which froze to their stockings and shoes in such large crusts, as to render travelling very laborious, and to expose them to the danger of having their limbs frost-bitten.

The weather, on the 21st, was so sharp, that the swamps and ponds were once more frozen over; and they found

it tolerable walking. This day several Indians turned back for want of provisions; which now began to run scarce, and no new supplies were to be found, except a few geese.

The following day they had the good fortune to kill two deer; but the party was now so large, that four of the northern deer were not more than adequate to a single meal.

On the 25th, several more of the Indians abandoned the journey, for fear of famine; and as they travelled hard for some days, all heavy laden, and in great distress for want of food, some of them became too weak to carry their furs any farther, and many others, being destitute of guns and ammunition, were no longer capable of bearing them company.

Mr. Hearne, indeed, had plenty of both, but self-preservation obliged him to reserve it for the use of his immediate attendants; especially as geese and other birds were the only game they had to expect till they reached the fort.

The 26th was fine and pleasant; and after walking about five miles, they fell in with and killed three deer, which, as their numbers were considerably lessened, served them for two or three meals, with little expence of ammunition.

They crossed Cathawhachaga river on the 30th of May, on the ice, which broke up soon after the last party left it. Symptoms of bad weather now appeared; and it was not long before the rain descended in torrents, and obliged them, in the middle of the night, to retire for security to the top of an adjacent hill, where the violence of the wind would not permit them to erect their tents. In this dreary situation, they remained till the 3d of June, without the least refreshment; in the course of which time the wind shifted all round the compass, and they changed their position with it.

On the 4th, the storm abated; and hunger compelled them to advance, wet and exhausted as they were. In the course of that day's journey they

killed some geese, but barely sufficient to keep them from starving.

On the 8th, however, they were fortunate enough to kill five deer, which put them all in high spirits; and from the numbers they saw, they began to indulge the hopes that more plentiful times awaited them, during the remainder of their journey.

On the 9th, as they were continuing their course in the direction of the factory, they saw several smokes, and spoke with different parties of northern Indians; but anxious to get on, they did not lose much time in conversation.

For many days after, they found plenty of provisions; and as the weather was remarkably fine and pleasant, their circumstances were vastly altered for the better; and they almost forgot their former sufferings. The thoughts too of approaching the fort gave them new resolution, and moderate difficulties were overlooked.

On the 18th, they arrived at Egg River, from whence Mr. Hearne dispatched a letter to the chief at Fort

Prince Wales, to inform him of his being so far advanced. Here they halted a day to prepare food to carry with them.

Early on the morning of the 26th they arrived at Seal River; but the wind blew so strong, that they could not venture to cross it in their little canoes, before the afternoon.

On the 28th, as they were crossing Po-co-thee-kis-co River, they were joined by some Indians from Fort Churchill, who brought them a little tobacco; and next morning they had the satisfaction to arrive safe at Fort Prince Wales, after an absence of eighteen months and twenty days.

“ Though my discoveries” says Mr. Hearne, “ are likely to prove of any material advantage to the nation at large, or, indeed, to the Hudson's Bay Company, yet I had the pleasure to think, that I had fully executed the instructions I received; and that this journey has put an end to all disputes respecting a North-west Passage through Hudson's Bay. It will also wipe off the ill-ground-

ed and unjust aspersions of some voyagers and travellers, thrown on the Hudson's Bay Company, as being averse to discoveries in this quarter." We shall now conclude this very interesting journey with some additional remarks on the northern Indians.

In their persons they are generally above the middle size, well proportioned, strong, and robust; but are less volatile and active than some of the other Indian tribes. Their complexion is of a dark copper cast; their hair black, long, and straight; and few of the men have naturally any beard, and what they have they carefully extirpate.

Their peculiar features are very low foreheads, small eyes, high cheek bones, Roman noses, full cheeks, and in general long broad chins. Their skin is soft and polished, and when they are clean dressed, they are quite free from any offensive smell. They mark their cheeks with three or four parallel black strokes, which is performed by running

a needle under the skin, and rubbing powdered charcoal into the wound.

Morose and covetous, the name of gratitude is scarcely known among them. They seem to take a pleasure in enumerating their wants, even where they have no prospect of having them relieved; and frequently laugh at the dupes of their insincerity.

Harsh, uncourteous usage seems to agree better with them than kindness; for if the least respect be shewn them, they become intolerably insolent. Yet as in all countries and among all people, there are some who are capable of estimating indulgence without trespassing too far.

To defraud the Europeans, and to overreach them in trade, are their pleasure and study. They disguise their persons, change their names; in short, any thing to escape paying their lawful debts, or to enable them to contract new ones.

Notwithstanding those bad qualities, they are one of the mildest of the In-

dian tribes, the most sober, and the most pacific.

Though jealousy is a general passion among the men, marriages are contracted without ceremony, and frequently dissolved with as little. Young women have no choice of their own. Their parents match them to the man who seems best able to maintain them, regardless of age, person, or disposition.

Girls are generally betrothed, when children, to men grown up. Nor is this practice destitute of policy; where the very existence of a family depends sometimes on the industry and abilities of one man. In case of a father's death, the poor female children would frequently be in danger of starving, did not those early contracts take place, which are never violated on the part of the man, till after consummation at least.

From the age of eight or nine, girls are strictly watched and closely confined; deprived even of innocent and cheerful amusements, and cooped

up by the side of old women, employed in domestic duties of every kind. But the conduct of the parents is by no means consistent with these rigid restraints. They set no bounds to the freedom of their conversation before their children.

Divorces are pretty common for incontinency, bad behaviour, or even the want of such accomplishments as the husband wishes to find in a wife. This ceremony consists in nothing but a good drubbing, and turning the woman out of doors.

Providence has mercifully denied the woman the same fecundity as in more genial climes. Few produce more than five or six children; and these generally at long intervals, which enables the parents to bring them up with greater facility, than if they had several very young children to take care of at once.

For want of firing, rather than choice, these poor people are frequently obliged to eat their meat raw, particularly in the summer season, when on

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The tract of land inhabited by the northern Indians, reaches from latitude 59 to 68 deg. and is about five hundred miles in width. The surface is frequently covered with a thin sod of moss; but, in general, it is no more than one solid mass of rocks and stones. It produces some cranberries, and a few other insignificant shrubs and herbage; and in the marshes are found different kinds of grass: but nature has been very sparing in her gifts in the vegetable class.

There is a kind of moss of a black, hard, crumply appearance, growing on the rocks and large stones, which is of infinite service to the natives, as it sometimes furnishes them with a temporary subsistence, when no other food is to be procured. When boiled, it turns to a gummy consistence, and is neither unpalatable nor unwholesome. Fish and deer, however, constitute their principal support; and these are in most places, sufficiently abundant at the proper seasons.

When two parties of those Indians meet, they make a full halt within a few yards of each other, and, in general, sit or lie down for a few minutes. At length one of them, commonly breaks silence, and when he has made his oration, the speaker of the other party begins his reply.

They have few diversions; and in a country where want can only be warded off by constant diligence, it is not to be expected that they should shine in elegant amusements. Dancing, however, is not unknown among them; and this exercise the men always perform naked. The women, unless they are commanded by their husbands or fathers, never share in it, and then always by themselves.

A scorbutic eruption, consumptions, and fluxes, are their chief disorders. The first, though very troublesome, is never of itself fatal; but the two latter carry off great numbers of both sexes and all ages. Indeed, few attain to longevity, probably owing to the rigours of the climate, and the great fatigues they incessantly undergo. They never bury their dead, but leave them to be devoured by the birds and wild beasts.

The death, however, of a near relation affects them most sensibly. They rend their clothes, cut their hair, and cry almost incessantly for a great length of time. The periods of mourning are regulated by moons; and they seem to sympathize with each other on their respective losses, as if possessed of the finest sensibility; yet there is certainly much of habit in this, and the emotions of nature have only a partial share, either in their sorrow or condolence.

the barren ground; nor do they ever feel any inconvenience from this. Mr. Hearne says, he has been frequently one of a party, who has sat down to a fresh-killed deer, and assisted in picking the bones quite clean.

Their poverty is so great, that not many of them are able to purchase a brass kettle; so that they are under the necessity of continuing their original mode of boiling their victuals in large upright vessels, made of birch rind. As these will not admit of being exposed to the fire, the defect is supplied by red hot stones, put into the water: which speedily occasion it to boil. They have various dishes, at which the delicate stomach of an European would revolt.

Bows and arrows, their original weapons, are now superseded by the use of fire-arms, except among the very poorest, or when they wish to save ammunition. Deer are frequently killed during the summer season with arrows; but from disuse, the Indians are not very dextrous in the management of those weapons.

Their sledges are of various sizes, according to the strength of the people who are to haul them. Some are not less than twelve or fourteen feet long, and fifteen or sixteen inches wide; but, in general, their dimensions are much less. They are composed of

boards, a quarter of an inch thick, and about five or six inches wide, sewed together with thongs of parchment deer skin. The head, or fore part, is turned up, so as to form a semicircle of about a foot and a half diameter. This prevents the sledge from diving into light snow, and enables it to slide over the inequalities of the surface.

The trace, or draught line, is a double string made fast to the head; and the bight is put across the shoulders of the hauler, so as to rest against the breast, which allows the greatest exertion of strength with the least toil.

Their snow shoes are somewhat different from the generality used in those regions, as they must always be worn on one foot, the inner side of the frame being almost straight, and the outside having a large sweep. The frames are commonly made of birch wood, and the netting is composed of thongs of deer skin.

Their clothing principally consists of deer skin in the hair, which subjects them to vermin; but this is far from being considered as a disgrace; and, indeed a lousy garment forms, in their estimation, a delicious repast. Disgusting as this may appear, it is perhaps, no more indelicate than an European epicure feasting on the mites in cheese.

Religion, as a rule of life, has not yet begun to dawn among the northern Indians, superstitious as they are. Yet they think and speak respectfully of the devotion of others; and some of them are not unacquainted with the history of the great Author of Christianity. Matonabee, who, our author says, was one of the best informed and sensible men he ever knew among them, gave the following account of his countrymen.—“ Their only object is to consult their interest, inclinations, and passions; and to pass through this world with as much ease and contentment as possible, without any hopes of reward, or painful fear of punishment in the next.” These are the sentiments and the objects of the irreligious in all countries, however much policy may teach them to disguise their thoughts.

When the aurora borealis is very bright, and varying much in form, colour, and situation, they say their deceased friends are very merry; but the immortality of the soul is by no means a general belief among the northern Indians; though their southern neighbours have certainly some faint ideas of it. Yet they are very superstitious with respect to the existence of several kinds of furies, whom they call Nant-e-na, and whom they pretend sometimes to see. These are

supposed to inhabit the different elements ;  
and to some one or other of them, every  
change in their circumstances is usually as-  
cribed.

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