

5

RS1898/D31

RS2/2(5)

JOHN HUDSPET

JOURNAL

1815

A Journal
During a
Winter, spent in Hudson's Bay
at
Eastmain - Labrador.

Here winter holds her unjoining court,
And thro' his airy hall the loud misrule
Of driving tempest is forever heard:
Here the grim tyrant meditates his wrath,
Here arms his winds with all subduing frost
Moulds his fierce hail & treasures up his snow
With which he now oppresses half the Globe.

Eastmain, October 23^d 1815

This Morning the ground was completely covered with Snow but the day was fine and it in a great measure disappeared.

The evening was cool, and more Snow fell. My occupation today was that of clearing out and putting in order my Shop which is tolerably well stocked with Medicines but in a sad state of confusion. - The weather was unfavorable for the Long Boat to return to Rouillon & M. Russell was busily employed all day in furnishing what supplies could be spared from here; a bow was killed for the purpose of sending to the Ships. A Messenger was sent away to an Indian Tent at some distance to request them to come to the House and convey the Packet of Letters with the Intelligence of the Ships being returned to Moose. The Two Indians Jack Hesther junior & Fox Skin arrived in the evening.

Tuesday Oct. 24th This Morning I wrote a Letter to Capt. D. but on going out with it. I found the Long Boat gone was then sailing down the River. The Indians & a number of the Passengers that were going home in the Ships were also sent off for Moose in Boats & Canoes. The

ground was covered with snow, but the Sun during the day was powerful enough to dissipate it. It was discovered that 3 Hawks had been killed by a King & I was amused by Mr^s Russell coming in for her gun to shoot it. The very sight of this piece of Artillery would frighten many of our British Fair, but the Ladies here are very devious in the use of fire arms. The porcupine lost its life this its wantonness. This little black animal appears to be of the Tiger kind and about the size of a little Cat.

I took a walk today with Mr Russell down the Ridge Path - a fine avenue cut among the trees about a mile or upwards in length, at the further end of which is erected a Platform or little wooden House standing on 4 strong posts, with a ladder of broad steps up to it. This is emphatically styled the Summer House, within are benches all round to sit on and a Table in the middle of the floor. The thing possesses no beauty whatever, but seems as an agreeable resting place whilst taking a Promenade, - and also serves as a Land Mark to Mariners & likewise as an elevated Look out from the Shore for it stands just at the margin of the Woods on a little eminence

and commands a pretty extensive prospect comprehending the Mouth of the River the Sea & several adjacent Islands.

Wednesday, Oct 25 Night frost, but the Snow nearly gone. The wind was favorable for the return of the Long Boat from the Ships but she did not arrive.

Mr^s Russell caught Two Muskrat Rats or Musquash with traps in a pond near the House. This Animal is of the Beaver species. Like the Beaver it is sociable like it living in societies & forming a House wherein to pass the winter but they do not fell trees, as they line on the roots of plants which grow in bogs and marshy places. - It is larger than the common Rat, its legs are short and its feet large & webbed for the purpose of swimming and it has an enormous scaly tail rather flattened on the sides which gives the creature a disgusting appearance. The Muskrat is contained in two little Bags situated on each side of the Anus.

A few Indians have very come in with some Furs I spent a considerable time in observing the art of trading with these people, which is very simple. It is conducted in a regular systematic way. a Beaver skin is the Standard of Trade, and all other

skins are brought to that Standard if the skins are inferior in value to the Beaver a certain number is required to make it a Beaver. - and if the skin is of greater value it is called two, three or four Beaver. Thus, the Beaver is the current coin of the realm as it were. and as there is an established price for every thing, the Indians are never dissatisfied nor are conscious of being cheated, nor expect more than their due. - but they always look for a great many presents. -

In addition to what they receive in Winter they always take a great deal upon credit which they pay in Furs in the following Spring. This called taking their Debt. the more they are entrusted with it is the better for the Trade, for it stimulates them to greater perseverance in procuring Furs, than would otherwise be the case. as soon as they have got as much as will pay their debt, they give themselves very little trouble about any more. And at the time they pay off their old Debt, they also begin taking up a new debt. The goods which they receive in return for their skins, are Cloth, Blankets, Twine - Culinary utensils, Hatchets, Guns - Powder & Shot -

Lace or Gartering, Beads &c. Rum and Tobacco is generally given gratis. In the evening Two Indians arrived in a canoe with some furs. one calls himself Mr Bonam. the other is styled Captain Simon. The title of Captain is given to one who is a good Hunter & has a large family of sons or relatives who consider him as their leader or Chief. when the dignity is conferred on him by the Factor. His only distinction is a Comarion Hat and a coat dressed with Gartering - such as might be worn by a Mountebank's Fool. at present the Captain makes much such a figure as one of the most miserable Beggars in Scotland would do. This party being in very unfavorable accounts of the Goose Hunt to the Northward - it has ever where been the most unsuccessful kind for some years.

Thursday, Oct 26th. This morning the Ship's Long Boat arrived from Montreal, and conveyed to me the very disagreeable information, of the Surgeon of the Edystone having refused to administer relief to some of the Hadlaris men & I received a peremptory order from Mr Davison to return to Montreal in consequence. The bare mention of the cir-

circumstances was sufficient to have directed me how to act, without requiring any such imperious commands, but it portrays the Man's ignorance and his insensible disposition. - The Deaf being pent up in the same house with such disagreeable society after just being allowed to taste the pleasure I should have enjoyed at Eastern intercourse one suit a little, however even this I shall overcome and endeavour to make the best of it. Mr Russell expresses himself in the strongest terms of disapprobation at such conduct & will not pass it over unnoticed.

There was about 3 degrees of frost during the fore part of the day in the after part, and the evening a good deal of snow fell, & began to blow hard from the N.W. with increased cold.

Friday, Oct 27th This Morning the Thermometer was down to 25°, & continued so all day, with a good deal of snow on the ground. - The Ship's Boat did not get away to day, the wind being contrary.

Saturday, Oct. 28th All day the weather was very stormy and cold, blowing a strong gale from the N.W. with snow and drift.

Sunday Oct. 29th This day was once as much respected in Hudson's Bay as in any other civilized country, but it is now totally disregarded, even the usual appearance of decency is laid aside and the Slaves of the Hudson's Bay Company are compelled to labour as hard on the Sabbath as on any other day at all kinds of employment. Gentlemen who used to enforce the observance of the Sabbath amongst the Servants are now so familiar with the neglect of it altogether that they cease to inculcate the principles of Religion in their own families. And the bright rays of civilization which had begun to dawn on this benighted country are now hid in obscurity. - the practice which was once observed of performing Divine worship & educating the children has been abolished from motives of economy. - the ignorant are kept in darkness from motives of economy. - the helpless are starved to death for sake of Economy. - their hard working labourers are pinched of their necessary allowance of Food for Economy. - These plans have been recommended to the Company by some sordid wretches who have got rich and are now enriching themselves by the misery of hundreds of their fellow creatures.

But this line of policy, if not altered
will soon work the Company's ruin, no-
thing appears to go on prosperously. No
masters seem to attend their affairs in
every department. The Natives are
discontented, are slackening in their
vigilance and become disaffected, they
no longer regard the Company as their
friends but as their Oppressors and are
very glad to take their Furs to their
opponents the NW Traders whenever
an opportunity offers.

The weather today was not so tem-
pestuous till towards evening, it blew
fresh again from the N.W. The therm
in the evening at 26°. The two Indians
McNam & Capt. Simon whose real
names by the bye are Totombone &
Notablee requested to be sent away
they said they might as well go away
& starve, as starve here. For nothing
had been given them to eat or per-
sone that they might tell any In-
dians they see and prevent them com-
ing to the House without necessity
during the winter. - The weather
is quite frosty and the ground covered
with snow, one of these poor creatures
was barefooted. - They went a little
way down the river and lighted a fire

on the opposite shore by the side of the
they slept all night without any
other covering than the canopy of
Horse. - but Nature seems to have
formed the constitution of these people
as obdurate & inflexible as the zone
they inhabit.

Monday, Oct. 30th. The day was
very temperate and fine with sunshine
and the wind gradually veered from the
Westward to the East. - In the after-
noon we had the very perceptible disappoint-
ment of seeing the Boat and Canoes with all
the Passengers which were sent off to Moose
coming up the river. - It seems they had
not proceeded farther than an Island
about 15 Miles to the Southward where
they were detained by the late bad weather
and today when they might have
proceeded, the 2 Indians betrayed signs
of irresolution & at last refused to at-
tempt the journey at such an advanced
period of the Season. - but their principal
incentive to come back was in consequence
of the father in law of Fox Skin having
dreamt some time ago that he (Fox)
would be lost on going to Moose. - the
Indians are very superstitious, but very
likely this was merely a pretence, for
it is really a hazardous journey.

The return of all these people to us
main for some time dependant on
this place, is a most deplorable cir-
cumstance... already scarce of provisions
the more there are here to con-
sume that little, the less can be spared
to the Ships, which are now solely
dependant on Eastmain which
has scarcely sufficient for the sup-
port of their own Establishment...
and the total failure of the Goose
Hunt renders the burthen more in-
supportable. Prospects are very
gloomy at present, what may be the
ultimate consequences, time only
shall develop. On taking into con-
sideration the number of wretched peo-
ple thus unfortunately thrown upon
Eastmain... the insufficiency of their
food, & deficiency of clothing together
with their liability to accident... Mr.
Rusell was afforded a very good pretext
for detaining me, which he has re-
solved to do... and moreover has conveyed
to the Captains a sharp reproof in
a public letter for making their
request in such an imperative tone,
on the same public way he strongly
censures the conduct of Mr. Benurain
the Eddyston's Surgeon on this oc-

casione which will perhaps be further
enquired into hereafter. -

A good deal of Ice was coming in
the River today and between noon & 4
evening the Therm^o fell from 30° to 22°.

Tuesday, Oct. 31st Was ushered
in with a very fine Morning... The
Long Boat went off early, but the winds
were light and variable all the day &
they would probably be long on their
passage to Stuarton... I sent a letter
to Capt. D. in reply to his of the 25th.

The weather continued so mild all
day that one of the Indians agreed to
set out again for Moore & take one of his
wives along with him that if they are
prevented returning by the severity of
the weather, he can stop any where &
hunt for his subsistence without feeling
the effects of solitude... Large Fields of
thin Ice were floating in the River
today but the mildness of the wea-
ther did not allow them to incorporate.

In the afternoon an old Indian
woman called Peggy came across the
river with some furs & some Rabbits, she
is a widow & supports herself & a little
Orphan grandchild by her industry
Her son & his 4 children were drowned
by the upsetting of their Canoe, his

wife who was pregnant was saved but she died soon after the birth of this little girl. - fortunate for her she never knew the loss of her parent for Peggy is more than a parent to her - These examples of philanthropy are not only common but frequent amongst these people whom Christians denominate Savages, but the life of some of these Savages will exhibit a pattern of morality which many of our Christians would do well to imitate.

Peggy who is an excellent huntsup is very generous too, she not only gives to the Factory when she has an abundance, but sometimes when she has little to spare, in times of scarcity she is indefatigable in her exertions, indeed she is a valuable woman. - After getting a little grog and a slice of bread she set off again to her hunt in the woods.

Wednesday, Nov 1.st The weather all day was mild & thawing at night snow fell. - Was employed today with some of the company's writings and in the evening had a game at cards. -

Thursday, Nov 2.nd Very stormy - blowing a strong gale of wind from the NW with showers of snow & drift, but the cold was inconsiderable.

Friday, Nov 3.rd This Morning, the Thermometer was down to 18° and the River covered with Ice from side to side in the evening the therm was at 14° the wind southerly. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to get home the cattle. They roam at large all the summer unmolested by man, & they become so completely wild that it is impossible to get them home until the severity of the weather drives them. The weather is now cold enough & the snow so deep on the ground that they cannot possibly get food, but still they are unapproachable.

Saturday, Nov 4.th A very heavy fall of snow today rendered the weather much milder, and the Ice in the River separated again into fields with water intervening, giving the river much the appearance of the Bay of Fundy. In the afternoon there was a thaw with some Rain.

Sunday Nov 5.th A very fine day, with but two degrees of frost.

Another fruitless attempt was made to get home the cattle, this circumstance begins to be serious for there is scarcely a bit of provision about the place. - In the forenoon Mr. Russell, Mr. Gladman, & I took a walk in the Ridge path to the summer house. - tho' the snow is now so deep as to render walking very laborious & tiresome. - On our return I stepped into the Indian burying ground a neat little inclosure on one side of this Lane. - it attracted my attention by the novelty of its sepulchral monuments part of which were yet visible above the snow, and had been placed there from Superstition & kindred affection. - One grave had a quantity of sticks over it which had been put there from time to time by the Mother of the Deceased to light a fire with. - Others had a piece of tobacco tied to a stick a present from a friend or from some one who had injured the deceased in his life time and desirous now to make some compensation. - At the graves of some young children there were a bow and arrow and Poinshes or sticks sharpened at one end to hold

their meat on. - at each Female's grave was a Paddle stuck down it being intended that she should subsist by fishing only in the regions of immortality. - They always bury the whole of the property of the deceased along with them let it be ever so valuable. - they consider it a crime of the worst kind to withhold any thing from the dead. - From all this it is evident that these Indians believe in the Soul to be immaterial. - Indeed on some occasions they pretend to watch and see the Spirit take its flight which takes place the first night that the body is deposited in the grave. - They all have their guns loaded to fire a salute when they see it ascend & wait in profound silence. - it is first seen by the greatest conjuror who gives the alarm, crying, "there it is, there it goes". - they instantly fire their guns and every one declares he saw it. - In the winter time when Frost and Snow possesses the surface of the earth, they are obliged to bury their dead in the Tent where the fire and under the hearth where they have had their fire.

that being the only place where they are able to make a hole. But immediately afterwards they shift their habitation to another spot.

In the evening the therm. was down to 23° .

Monday, Nov 6th. The wind & temp with snow & 15° degrees of Frost. Another attempt was made to bring home the Cattle. One Cow only was got home which was immediately killed for present use, there not being a Morsel of provision at the place.

Most of the returned Passengers have been sent away to different parts to endeavour to support themselves by fishing and hunting.

Tuesday, Nov 7th. This Morning there was 19° of Frost, it did not rise higher than 14° , and in the evening it fell to 9° . The weather was clear and without snow all day. My time is at present occupied by reading writing and drawing a little. In instructing two young N. American ladies in the English language. The evening before supper is beguiled by a few games at Cards, and after Supper is spent in conversation over a roaring wood fire.

Wednesday, Nov 8th. At 8 this Morning the Therm. was only 7° above the cypher a degree of cold hardly ever experienced in Britain and which would be there, almost intolerable, but here it is thought nothing of, the dry pure Atmosphere of this country renders the cold very supportable & the climate extremely healthy. The River Ice this Morning was completely fast from side to side and in the forenoon a Black Fox availed himself of the opportunity & crossed the river just opposite the House, presently after a Man came across. one of those sent to maintain themselves but it seems there is no Fish to be got nor animals of any kind. All day I was occupied drawing a view of Eastmain.

Thursday Nov 9th. This Morning the weather was comparatively mild, there being but 9° of frost with snow. The Snow is now so deep that it is possible to walk without wearing on the feet an apparatus called Snow Shoes. Accommodations that are indispensably necessary in this country in the Winter season and as a prelude to using them myself I shall endeavour to give a description of them. A Snow Shoe

a piece of Net work contained within a
frame. it is made of different forms.
some are oblong. from 3 to 4 feet in
length. broad in the middle and termi-
nating in a point at each end. the
fore end or toe being turned up and
the hinder end laying flat. the frame



is of wood made slender
and light and artificially bent to
this form. the sides of this frame
are kept apart by two cross bars
placed at a proper distance from
each other. these also serve to support
the netting which is made of skin
cut in small strips. between the
bars the netting is strongest for on
this part the foot rests and is fixed
to the shoe by leather strings which
are crossed over the top of the foot
in a peculiar manner, brought round
to the heel and tied. Another very
common form is somewhat resem-
bling a paper kite in shape.

The shoes worn on the feet
both without and within doors are
made of soft leather generally
deer skin dressed. annexed to the
shoe is a flap of the same kind
of skin or of cloth which is folded
round the ankle and laced round
with strings so that there is no ap-

erture whatever to admit the snow
within these are worn a quantity of thin
flannel socks. the snow is so dry from
the intense cold of the frost that it does
not stick to the feet. These shoes are of-
ten tastefully ornamented with lac-
quered quills.

Friday. Nov 10th This morning the
therm^o was down to the cypher, but it
rose in course of the day and there were
some partial showers of snow. in the
evening it blew hard from the N.W.

A Woman called Ugly the youngest
wife of the Indian who was sent to
Mum with the packet came here to
seek victuals. it least that was con-
sidered to be the object of her visit for
scarcely a word could be extracted from
her. she extorted from her: what were
her motives for such a profound
taciturnity. whether bashfulness, sul-
lensness or decay. she did not think proper
to speak a dozen words to any body.

This propensity to silence is very pre-
valent amongst the women of this
country and also the men. few of them
will speak, especially to a stranger un-
til they get a little tipsy & then they
are very communicative.

This being the day which completes

another year of my existence. the worst
lead me naturally to think of those who
gave me birth and of those around
them who participate in their sorrows
and in their joys. the reflections af-
ford me but a melancholy pleasure.
they may indeed be celebrating the
Anniversary and indulging in the
flattering hope of soon seeing or
hearing from me. but ah! how
soon they are to be disappointed! how
poignant the dread of never hearing
from me more! for 12 long months
they must suffer all the torments
of a mind racked with doubt, ap-
prehension and alarm. But when
I turn my attention to myself &
survey my own situation. How
much I have to be thankful for.
blessed with the full enjoyment of
health. and favoured by a kind provi-
dence above all the rest of my com-
panions. who are now suffering
from the rigors of the cold. the pin-
ching of hunger and the horrors of
discontent with all their concomi-
tants. whilst there is nothing in
my lot which I can possibly com-
plain of. - I that the actions of my
life might prove the sincerity of my
gratitude to the Divine Author of my
Being for such unmerited blessings.

Saturday. Nov 11.th All day it snowed
incessantly. - I amused myself
at different times today by putting
Snowshoes, Drawing, reading & in
the evening by playing at Cards.

Sunday Nov. 12.th Being a very fine
day I chose to indulge myself for the first
time with a walk in Snowshoes and to
add to the Novelty I wished to walk across
this large River, which is upwards of a
Mile over opposite to the House. - accom-
panied I walked forth accompanied by
Aggladman, a young Gentleman born
in this country but educated in England
and possesses neither the Indian complex-
ion nor disposition. - His grandmother a
decent old Indian woman had her tent
on the Woods on the North side of the re-
ver. and we went to pay her a visit.
but she was out hunting. - in the tent
there was a young woman, her daughter
in law. - who had just given birth to a fine
little Boy that lay by her side. perhaps
the day before only. She was clean
well dressed & did not appear to labour
under any indisposition, but not a
word would she speak nor answer
any question that was asked her.

The Infant was wrapped in a piece
of new printed Cotton over this a piece

of Murre and laced up in a Bag made of cloth embroidered with Gartering & out of this Bag it is not taken at all except for the purpose of snaking the child clean which is only attended to once or twice in the day - instead of a Napkin a quantity of dried Moss is substituted, & sometimes in such quantities that the Child's become bent never to recover their shape. When the Woman travels or goes a hunting, the Child is carried in a similar Bag, the back side of which is a piece of thin Seal in front it is open and laces up like an Ankle Boot when the Child is in it. - this cradle as it is called is suspended over the Shoulders by a strap crossing the breast. the woody part of course is next to the back of the woman and the Child's back also to that of the Mother, nothing could be better adapted to the purpose in their mode of living, for it can be set down against any thing or hung up on a branch of a tree at any time, children are carried about in this way till they are upwards of two years old, generally living in woods or rugged spots, they do

not begin to walk at an early age. - To return to my excursion, after leaving this Tent we went about 2 miles up the river to a small creek where a party of Men were sent to catch fish for themselves by means of Nets set under the Ice. They have a pretty strong Tent, and have also begun to build a hut of Logs, but complain that they get no fish. On recrossing the river coming back we met a party of women with their guns & Hatchets. These are arms which the sledmen go without, on them depends their subsistence. The gun to shoot game, the Hatchet to get wood for firing &c. - There is another apparatus which they are never without, it is a Bag called Sheppatoggie & contains the apparatus for lighting a Fire. I got back to the Factory in the afternoon pretty well fatigued and with a good appetite to enjoy a good dinner of Roast Beef & Cranberry Pie. - no very despicable fare in Labrador. The remainder of the day I spent as usual reading during day light, and afterwards doing nothing.

Monday Nov. 13. Today the weather was remarkably mild being

degrees above freezing. Some of the cattle were got home today after much labor and perseverance and perseverance on the part of the men, but several of them run back into the woods.

Tuesday Nov. 14 The Thermometer all day at 15° with a strong breeze of wind from the westward, which drifted the snow very much.

Wednesday, Nov 15. Mild weather with snow, which suits me very well for any manual occupation. I set to work and finished my Draught of Eastmain, which I presented to Mr. Russell. The Indian woman Peggy brought in some furs and a present of Rabbits, her little girl was clothed in a gown or coat made of Rabbit skin, not by the skins sewed together, but cut in narrow stripes & twisted like a rope which has always the fur outside, with this the coat garment is wrought without a seam woven from the top throughout. I imagine it is done in the same way as Mats are made.

In the evening a party of men arrived from Russell's House. Mr. Russell expected them by water before the Ice set in, and has been

labouring under much uneasiness about them for some time. by their account they have had a narrow escape, for they commenced their journey in a small Boat, and were frozen in at Sea, but after some hesitation they ventured upon the new formed Ice and got safe to land.

Thursday Nov 16 The weather was mild, but windy and drifting which rendered it unpleasant out of doors.

My employment today was sewing Books. besides my voluntary office of Tutor to the young ladies, which some that requires a little patience for with the whole tribe of Malish Breed they share partake largely of stupidity, obstinacy and intractableness. indeed the children of this country are so unaccustomed to restraint, that it is not easy to bring them into discipline. The fathers of both these are Medical Men. their Mothers are natives of this country. one of them is the Daughter of Mr. Russell the other is her Niece.

Friday Nov 17th The weather mild and temperate. Mr. Russell took her gun & went a hunting. she shot a white Partridge & caught a Whitefox in a trap. The partridges are sometimes very numerous and afford a

plentiful subsistence during the winter, some hundreds have been brought home in one day, but as yet they are very scarce. In the afternoon a black fox was seen crossing the river. M.R. & I went in pursuit of him but did not see him afterwards. The cattle that are out still cannot be got home - and having nothing to eat, they must be losing flesh materially.

Saturday, Nov. 18th. Very early this morning M. Russell went off with a party of Men (as many as could be provided with Snow shoes) to endeavour to get home the cattle, and after breakfast M.R. & M. Gladman went a hunting, leaving me only at home. M.R. returned with a very fine Red Fox & a white partridge. M. Russell's expedition failed - instead of getting them home they went several miles up into the Woods and it is probable they must be shot at last to save the Beef.

The weather all day was uncommonly mild.

Sunday, Nov 19th Snow falling and the weather mild. I spent the day in reading.

Monday, Nov 20th. This morning I took a walk with M. Russell round the margin of the woods, or as it is called, "along shore". On passing over the site of a large Pond he pointed out to me the house of some Musk rats, or Musk Beavers now properly, - this mansion at present has the appearance of a large Mole Hill above the snow. the Animal has been before described. In coming home this the Ridge path. M.R. shot a Woodcock. This Bird assembles in plumage the Partridge of Scotland, but it perches on trees and feeds on the Branch of the Spruce Fir, it however roosts in the snow. The white partridge is more properly a species of Ptarmigan being hairy down to the toes - at present they are a pure white, but in summer I understand they are speckled.

The Therm. today was at 15°. In the evening it blew hard with snow, and drifted very much.

Tuesday, Nov 21st. The Therm. was down to 5° in the morning & all day the weather was clear and fine. Another abortive attempt was made today to get home the cattle. Seven yet remain. The best of the whole herd. - it is a very serious & alarming

ing Misfortune, for on them, chiefly depends the support of all here and the Ships' crews whose situation will be truly deplorable.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd. This Morning for the first time the Therm. was below the Cypher 10 degrees. and for the first time I thought I would go a hunting. M^r. R. kindly furnished me with her shooting equipage and Snow Shoes & off I set up the River, but a whimsy seizing to go over to an Island (of which there are many) in the River, I there lost myself, and the more I endeavoured to extricate myself the more I got bewildered. The trees are so thick it is difficult to obtain a passage through amongst them, and the underwood & bushes which are covered with snow were every now and then catching my Snow Shoes and tripping me up.

One time, stooping down to tie the string of my Snow Shoes I lost my Equilibrium and fell down head foremost at a place where there were no trees nor twigs within reach to pull myself up by, so I lay sprawling in the snow for

some time after recovering myself I very coolly began to clean my gun, but on laying hold of my it with my bare hands my fingers became instantly glued to it. & had I not withdrawn them very nimbly I should have left good part of the Therm behind. Metals seem to absorb or attract cold more powerfully than other substances, & the effect of extreme cold applied in this way is the same as the application of high degree of heat, that is, it burns the part. and the unwary stranger is frequently imposed upon by this. it is usual for those acquainted with the circumstance to lay a wager with a stranger that he dare not touch his Hatchet with his Tongue. if the latter is unsuspecting enough to do it, he soon discovers his mistake by leaving a piece of his Tongue behind, to the great amusement of the more sapient North-westerns.

Whilst perambulating the Island I met with an Indian who was making snares for Rabbits. I asked of him (as well as I could in the Indian language) the way out of the woods but he would not utter a word & continued his occupation without even appearing to observe me. therefore I left him & renewed my attempts, which after

sometime were successful. I resolved
in future to be more cautious. & the
relation of my awkward adventure
created a good laugh when I got home.
I was scarcely into the House when
a violent tempest began. Mr.
who had been out in another direction
brought in 4 White Partridges. We
as usual beguiled away the even-
ing till supper time by a few
hands at whist. and 10 o'clock re-
tired to my own apartment which
very luckily happens to be in a
warm part of the House.

Thursday Nov 23^d. The Ther-
m was 5° above the cypher this Morn-
and rose some degrees during the day.

An Indian arrived with some skins
chiefly Fox & Marten skins, he gives
but an unfavorable account of their
success in hunting along the Seaboard,
there being very few foxes to be got.

This Man brings some mesquites to
me from various Indians & some
phials for Medicines so that the
news of my being here has soon
spread.

Every one is busily employed ma-
king Snow Shoes, preparatory to dis-
patching a party of the returned
passengers to Home.

Friday, Nov 24th. The Thermometer
was 4° above the cypher in the Morn-
ning, the weather serene all day.

Saturday, Nov 25th. The thermome-
ter above the cypher and a very fine day.
Mr Russell & 2 Men set out to endeavor
to get home the remainder of
the cattle. I accompanied them for the
sake of the walk. on arriving at the
part of the woods where they were
Mr R. and one Man went in with a
Bundle of Hay which was laid down
& Mr R. placed himself behind it, and
after eyeing the Hay for some time
ventured forward to cut & at this time
Mr R. carefully carried a rope over his
horns, finding himself secured he was
led home without making the small-
est resistance. The same stratagem
was tried with some of the others but
did not succeed. & it was thought best
not to molest them any further for
the present. By the time I got
back I had walked 10 or 12 miles & was
both fatigued & well prepared for an
excellent dinner that was awaiting
my return. - In the evening good
old Peggy arrived hauling a Sledge
laden with Rabbits & she got a little
egg to make her happy.

Sunday. Nov. 26. Therm. 5° above
the lyphew. Encouraged by the suc-
cess of yesterday. Mr. Russell & some
men went away early in the Morn-
ing to endeavour to get home the
rest of the cattle. but they did not
succeed. Mr. Gladman & I took a
walk along shore to examine the
Fox Traps - we got one Fox - some
white partridges fell in our way
but respecting the Sunday so far
as not to carry a gun they were
suffered to escape. - In the
evening an Indian named
Musquetoe Boy arrived.

Monday. Nov 27th. Therm. 2°
above the lyphew with snow. - I
went out a hunting & met with
some partridges, after some he-
sitation I mustered resolution
to fire at them, but to my sur-
prise I found none killed, on in-
vestigating the cause of this failure I
discovered that I had shot my
Right Eye and taken my aim with
the left, while I fired the gun from
my right shoulder. - This mishap
rather disconcerted me, but I con-
soled myself with the recollection
that this was my first attempt &

therefore a little timidity. - a slight
mistake was, pardonable. - an oppor-
tunity again offered of retrieving my
character. - I was successful, I shot a
Partridge. & then I got another, my
reputation as a Sportsman was now
established & I came home in triumph.
I would therefore recommend to all
young Sportsmen to be careful not
to aim with the wrong Eye.

The Indian Jack Hesther just ar-
rived today and brought me a Skiffa-
ggy or Bag ornamented with beads.

The cattle were at last got home
this afternoon, very lean as was
to be expected after being so long
without food.

Tuesday. Nov 28th. In the fore-
noon I went a hunting, but getting
nothing I set a few Rabbit snares.

The day was very stormy & got worse
towards evening. A Team of cattle
were yoked to a large Sledge to haul
hay home from an Island 3 miles
distant. - owing to the depth of the
snow & the badness of the weather
they did not get back till night &
so exhausted that some of them lay
down several times by the
way.

Wednesday Nov. 29th In the Morning the Therm: was 4° below the cypher. the weather all day very stormy. the Therm: in the evening was down to 10° below the cypher. - After dinner I took my daily walk to examine the Fox traps and look at my Rabbit snares, but got nothing.

Thursday, Nov. 30th This Morning the Therm: was so low as 25° below the cypher. the weather clear with bright sunshine.

About 9 A.M. Fifteen of the Returned Passengers commenced their journey to Moose, each man hauling a sledge a sledge laden with his property & necessaries for the journey. some of the sleds were drawn by dogs. But there are much more easily conveyed in that way than carried on the back. At 10 P.M. the Therm: was 24° below the cypher.

Friday, Dec. 1st This Morning at 8 o'clock the Therm: was 20° below the cypher or 60° of Frost. it rose gradually in the course of the forenoon & the day was very fine. - After

breakfast I went out a hunting & met with plenty of game but did not kill any. - however I got a white hare, or a Rabbit, as it is called, and a very fine Cross Fox. Mr. whom I met with in the woods had shot 5 White Partridges; we both got home about 1/2 past 3. - Mr. Reynard, as soon as he was skinned was sent on the Spit & gave a delicious supper to the half starved women and children who are dependant on the House. - It is a barbarous shame that Gentlemen take to themselves wives in this country. have children by them and afterwards return to Britain leaving them destitute & miserable. - For few make any provision for their widows & helpless children & they dwell out a wretched existence about the factories where they merely get a little from home to time to prevent them absolutely starving to death. The Mother is obliged to take the first husband that offers, and the girls are given away at an early age to whoever will have them. The sons are mostly brought up by some humane Indian who has either married the mother or is in some way related to her. At

Moose it is deplorable to see the want of children of these devoted women and orphans.

Saturday Dec. 2. The Thermometer was above the cypher this Morning but a strong westerly wind, rendered it very cool. I went out a hunting early but I saw no partridges at all. I got a couple of Rabbits & returned in the after part of the day a good deal fatigued. These Rabbits are caught by means of snares or springes set in the track which they make in the snow.

Sunday, Dec. 3. The weather very mild and snowing most part of the day. I took my usual walk round the Fox traps, but did not carry any game this. I don't think there would be any more harm in the one than the other. Spent the after part of the day in reading.

Monday Dec. 4. The day commenced with a gale of wind which increased towards night to a complete tempest. Snowing and drifting. Remained all day within doors writing. In the evening amused ourselves with Music & card.

Tuesday Dec. 5 The weather instead of getting better was rather worse today. The wind was equally violent & the cold greater. It being impossible to leave I remained within doors all day.

Wednesday, Dec. 6. This Morning the gale had settled into a calm & the Therm. had fallen to 23° below the cypher. The weather being clear & pleasant. Mr. Russell, Mr. Glendon and myself went severally out a hunting, each taking different routes but were all very unsuccessful. I found a fine Fox in one of the traps but so hard frozen that I broke its head off in endeavoring to take it out, and thereby diminished the value of the skin.

Thursday, Dec. 7. A partridge having been caught in a fox trap early in the morning induced us all to go out expecting to find them plentiful, but this was not the case. Two very fine Foxes, 5 partridges & a Rabbit was the product of our united exertions. Before I got home the weather had become very bad.

Friday Dec. 8. The Thermometer 21° under the cypher and very boisterous.

ous, so that it was impossible to go from home. - In the evening however I sallied forth notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. and Mr. Russell to the contrary, the latter of whom assured me with great sincerity that, "I would get my Face and Legs froze" and too truly her prediction was verified before I got far from the house. - for a keen piercing wind was blowing right in my face, however I continued my walk & returned with my face rather severely frozen. - The violence of the weather increased to a complete Tempest & continued so all night.

Saturday Dec 9th. I found my window this morning continually blocked up with snow and the Storm raging with unabated violence, the snow drifting with suffocating fury & the cold very intense. - I had no desire to repeat the experiment of freezing myself again, and therefore kept within doors all day, and this evening by the side of a good fire the Ink froze so quickly in the pen that

I was obliged to desist. - The evening terminated as our evenings usually do with a game at cards and a little Chit chat over a cheerful fire.

Sunday, Dec 10. The Storm had this morning subsided leaving ridges of snow in many places upward of 15 ft. in height. - The therm^{om} was down to 25° below the cypher & rather hazy with a sharp breeze of wind which rendered the cold rather piercing. I proposed taking a walk round the Por steps to clear them of the Snow. Mr. Russell insisted upon accompanying me, as he said "for fear I should freeze," but rather I imagine to bring me home at a reasonable time of the day. - We had not been long out before both our faces began to freeze but getting under the shelter of the woods we were able to complete our intended walk.

The face being unavoidably exposed to the weather is more liable to get frozen than any other part. - There are some who retain such warmth in their hands that they can prevent this taking place by rubbing their face frequently, but I can't bear my hands exposed a moment & when I even know my face to be

freezing I can apply no remedy.
notwithstanding these little incon-
veniences I cannot help being par-
tial to the country, but what it is
that attaches me to it, I cannot
discover myself.

Monday, Dec. 11th. I went a
hunting as usual & got 1 Fox,
1 Rabbit & 2 White Partridges.
Another Fox had been caught in
another trap but was eaten by
other Foxes. - so ravenous are these
Animals that their own species
becomes a ready prey where they
find them unable to defend them-
selves. Mr. Russell attended by
2 or 3 men went in search of a
Reifer which was still remaining
wild in the Woods but it was ut-
terly impossible to get it home
alive, and they were obliged to kill
it. The Animal was so ferocious
that it run furiously at them &
would have done them an injury
had it not been prevented by the
sagacity of Mr. R's dog which seized
it, the moment he saw it attack
the people. - Mr. R. got his hand hurt.
The weather today was milder
with snow.

Tuesday, Dec. 12. The Therm. was
15° below the Cypher this morning and
the day was most beautiful. Dur-
ing my hunting excursion I met
with but few partridges & got still
fewer. there were a great many
tracks of Foxes in the snow but they
seem very shy in taking the bait.
At sunset the Therm. had fallen to
25°. & at 10 P.M. it was 30° below the
Cypher. The night was serene, clear
and beautiful.

Wednesday, Dec. 13. The wea-
ther this morning was a remarkable
contrast to that of last night - it was
snowing, blowing, and drifting, the
Therm. was 5° below the Cypher in the
morning and rose as much above
it in the course of the forenoon, yet
the cold is more sensibly severe than
when the Therm. was 35° lower. After
Breakfast Mr. Russell & I went out
to hunt, we got 10 White Partridges
and nothing else. Peggy arrived
this afternoon with between 40 & 50
Rabbits the fruits of her indefatiga-
ble assiduity. She and her little girl
had hauled these about 25 miles over
deep snow, independent of the bad-
ness of the weather.

Thursday, Dec 14 This Morning
I went across the river to hunt along
the North shore, but I did not see
a living creature, therefore I crossed
again about the Mouth of the river
near to a point called the Knave
where I have a Fox trap, from
thence went to Butter Point &
went round my Rabbit snares in
the woods there. In coming home
wards I fell in with several white
partridges and while endeavouring
to get them under a Net placed
for the purpose. Mr Russell came
up with me and we came home
together. The weather all day
was extremely mild and pleasant,
the Therm. 13 above the Cypher.

Friday Dec: 15 This Morning
early M^r. Russell, Gladman. I
went to the Partridge Nets to endeav-
our to Net some of these Birds but
we did not succeed, we therefore par-
ted and took each a different route,
I met with plenty of game but
owing to my gun repeatedly miss-
ing fire, I got but 5 Partridges
Mr Russell got 9 & Gladman 3 mak-
ing 14 in all. It was quite dark
before I got home & I found M.R.

just about to send 2 Men off in search
of me. A Packet arrived from Moose
today with no very favorable accounts,
It appears there is a great scarcity of Pro-
visions prevailing in every department
and serious consequences are to be appre-
hended. The Servants at Moose were re-
duced in their usual allowance of victuals
in consequence of scarcity before they
heard of the return of the Ships and
their Rations are still more diminished.

One great source of subsistence Fishing
has entirely failed every where and
Geese also have failed in an unprece-
dented manner and this in a great mea-
sure from the illjudged policy of mulct-
ing the Indians of their usual quan-
tity of trading goods. such innovations
makes a forcible impression on the In-
dians, several about Albany have in
consequence refused to shoot Geese, and
in procuring Furs they are quite indif-
ferent. They have lost the spirit of com-
petition which formerly incited them to ex-
ertion because they have no encouragement,
they receive no reward, and therefore they
hunt just as many and no more Furs
than will just procure necessaries that
they cannot find a substitute for, and
they have even resolved to resort to their

primitive mode of sleeping, that is, in skins instead of cloth which they use at present. - Yet the Company are blinded with the belief that they purchase their Trade (this left in quantity) at a cheaper rate than formerly. -

By this conveyance I rec^d a Letter from M^r Greene the Surgeon at Moose. The man who left here on the 31st Oct. with the Ships Packet &c arrived at Moose with it on the 17th Nov. - In the Public Letter from M^r Beasley - the temporary Master at Moose in the absence of M^r Vincent the Governor, M^r Russell has received directions to give, those unfortunate men who were disappointed in getting home to their native country, by the failure of the Ships voyage, nothing more, than is just barely sufficient to sustain nature, that they are to be put to no work, because they shall have no wages & having no wages, they must be allowed no clothes or any thing out of the Warehouse. - thus those poor unfortunate men are to be stinted of food, stinted of raiment, deprived of their yearly salary, & in the same house & the same room with their fellow servants who enjoy all the comforts that

their situation affords. - Still their case would not be so deplorable were they suffered remain at the Factory, but no, they are driven to look for a precarious subsistence in the woods and in the waters, without a house to shelter them, or a bed on which to repose. wherever they go they are looked upon as Intruders, & are turned off again with brutal cruelty. - When the long Boat brought the Passengers from the Ships it would not contain the whole, the remainder were sent to Rupert's House by the gipsy Schooner providentially cast away upon these Islands at the time the Ships arrived there. - This party coming from Moose, met the above men travelling thither, they were sent from Rupert's House with a scanty allowance of food for 5 days. they were met by these people on the 8th day, not about 10 miles forward on their journey and it is much to be feared that all or some of them will perish from want.

Yet in the midst of all this misery & wretchedness I have the happiness to enjoy through the goodness of a Bountiful Providence, every comfort that I could desire, particularly the Blessings of Peace and Plenty.

Saturday, Dec. 16. After Breakfast we went out on our hunting excursion. The partridges were tolerably plentiful but our sport was rather spoiled by a Female from the Factory who had gone out at an early hour and had scoured the coast with her mischievous gun - and what to some would almost appear incredible, the Fowls had her Infant of 3 weeks old upon her back at the time. -

I returned about 3 P.M. heavily laden with upwards of 20 Birds on my fine Fox, the result of the morning's hunt. - After dinner I took a walk up the river with my gun & got one more, but darkness soon put an end to the chase.

Sunday, Dec. 17th. This Morning two Men with an Indian guide, were sent off to attempt getting to the Strutton Islands over the Ice, or at any rate to ascertain how far it is possible to go. They proceeded first along shore to a point of land or some Islands near the Mainland from whence it is only 14 miles across to Strutton so that they can easily accomplish the walk, or come back on the same day, if they meet with any obstacles. It is to be feared

the attempt is premature. About 10 o'clock I commenced my tour round the Fox traps which were disposed on a circuit of 10 miles. I returned about 3. with a Rabbit or Hare which I caught in a snare, and the head of a Fox all the rest had been eaten by their own kind or by a wolf. -

Monday Dec 18th. This Morning as usual I set out on a hunting excursion. I overhauled my Traps in the woods but got no Hares. - met with Mr. M^r Russell below the Summer H^o firing at Partridges. I endeavored to get a flock of partridges under the Net there but failed. I then went to Woody Island & there got a most beautiful Silver Fox. the skin of which is of considerable value. had I been half an hour later it would have been destroyed by another Fox which I saw going directly for it. I met with a few partridges there but only got one. M^r R. had shot 6, and M^r R. of partridge. My Fox was roasted for supper, and appeared so very nice that I determined to have a bit. - and found it very good indeed. I believe many things which are considered disgusting, may be very palatable were it not for prejudice.

An Indian had come here for the Hunt
killed a Seal today which he found
proceeding up the river. I suppose
it had somewhere at Sea ventured
upon the Ice to enjoy the open air,
but having overslept itself its hole
had frozen over and left it a warm
dinner on the surface of its native
Element. - this I think a presump-
tive proof of the Sea being frozen over.

Tuesday Dec. 19 This evening
Mr. Russell and I sat out together
and almost close to the house fell in
with some partridges. I fired and
missed but Mr. R's better skill
brought 3 to the ground. A Lady,
in this country on a Hunting or
travelling expedition in winter,
presents much such a figure
as in Northumberland would be
styled a Randy or Faw, synonymous
to Gipsy in England. but within
doors their dress is rather splendid.

After a laborious day I come
home fatigued & ached, with only
3 Partridges and 2 Hares. - Mr. R. who
came home early had 9 partridges.
Upon the whole game is unusually
scarce. in former seasons 3 or 400
have been brought in, in a day and

perhaps 10,000, in the course of the winter
at these times they don't think it worth
while to shoot them. - a large Net is
a square frame is placed in a conven-
ient place. one side is resting on the
the snow, the opposite side is elevated
& supported by a slender post to which
a long string is fastened. a quantity of
gravel is laid in a heap under the Net
and is covered over with a cloth, when
a number of Partridges are near the
Net. the person goes and removes
the cloth off the gravel. he then
begins to chase the birds towards the
Net, as soon as they see the gravel
they run to it, the string is drawn in
the Net falls down and entraps the birds
left pretty victims. A most sanguinary
scene ensues, the most effectual and
expedient mode of killing them
is by biting their heads with the teeth
& by the time this process is over, the
face of the Operator exhibits a pretty
flushed complexion. - this mode of in-
flicting death is peculiar to this coun-
try & practised on all small animals
even Fishes. - and an Indian when
he executes a Louse would not crush
it with his Nail but carefully place
it on the Tail of his boat & give it a

a pinch between his teeth.

The men sent to attempt getting to Stuttons returned today. They had gone no farther than Brandy Islands before alighted, where they remained till this morning, when the atmosphere being hazy, the Indian refused to proceed, & moreover he thinks the journey impracticable.

Wednesday, Dec 20th. Mr. McR. having preceded me along shore this morning I passed an hour or two in the woods setting Rabbit snares & shot a Wood Partridge there. I afterwards went to the Knoll & to Woody Island, at the latter place I shot 5 white partridges I got also a Hare & returned home about 4 P.M. - a silver Fox was brought home from the traps. - The weather has kept fine for these few days past.

Thursday, Dec 21st. This morning I resolved to stay at home to finish some writings I have been busy with, but the day was so inviting that I went out in the course of the forenoon. Two Partridges were to be seen, I got 3. Mr. R. & Mr. A. by the House. I scrounted all my Rabbit snares

but got none. - while setting a snare a beautiful little Ermine was very near falling into my hands. I got home by 3 o'clock & after dinner went out again up the river, but saw nothing. The Therm. all day was as low as the 10th & in the evening it blew fresh from the Northward.

Friday, Dec 22. Nobody went a hunting but myself today. I got one Hare, but saw nothing else, and for the first time for some weeks, was home at the dinner hour.

Saturday, Dec 23 This morning a Packet Messengers were dispatched to Moose. - The weather mild, with snow. Mr. McR. and I went severally out to inspect the Fox traps and some guns set for Foxes, but none were got. I met with nothing whatever. Mr. R. shot 5 or 6 Partridges. Peggy arrived in the evening with a sledge load of Rabbits.

Sunday, Dec 24 Today I resolved to stay at home and spend the forenoon in my own rooms - not in devotion as it ought to have been spent, but in mending the tents my clothes had received in the woods, all the while

my ears were regaled with vocal music in the adjoining room, which is almost incessantly audible in the discordant strains of Infantile performance. - but a hearty breakfast of Roast Turkey having put the whole in a good humour, they struck up the well known Scotch tune. Mr. nips. Bowdler. - After an excellent dinner and a few glasses of wine I spent the remainder of the day in reading. -

Peggy who comes from some distance up the river says, that all the Falls were frozen up long ago, and therefore it is very probable that the Sea is frozen all the way to Struttons - indeed the brightness of the Horizon in that direction is a strong indication of it.

Monday, Dec 25. Christmas day a day of general happiness & festivity in the land of good living; a day anxiously expected by the youthful part of society who then are permitted to shake off scholastic restraint & fly home on the wings of pleasing anticipation to their good parents who are delighted once more to see around them the whole of their

hopeful family. This picture of juvenile and parental felicity scarcely applies to my own family, yet the return of such days will naturally recollect to mine the great charm already formed and every year becoming wider & wider in our own domestic sphere.

With respect to my self, I far removed from the festivity of the British Metropolis, or the noisy mirth of a Northumbrian drinking party. I spent the day in calm serenity in Labrador sat down to a good dinner of English fore roast Beef & pudding drank our wine afterwards, and after Tea played at Cards. - All that I could have wished more, is that my friends at Bowdson might participate in my happiness & peace of mind. -

The day was very stormy, snowing almost incessantly, blowing fresh and drifting.

Tuesday, Dec 26th Today we all resumed our accustomed occupation of hunting. Mr R went round the margin of the woods to the Southward. Mr Gladman went up the river. I put in order my Rabbit snares and went to Woody Island. There was very little game about, only

5 Partridges were procured & one Fox & neither had been eat out of the trap. The weather was delightful but walking soft and fatiguing from the quantity of snow that fell yesterday. The Island of Skutumpah could be distinctly seen from the Sea shore & there is every appearance of the Sea being completely fast that far.

Wednesday, Dec. 27. This morning the Therm: was 11° below the cypher & the weather clear & serene. Directly after breakfast I set out a hunting & close to the House shot 5 white partridges. Mr. W. Russell who immediately followed me, wishing not to spoil my sport, took a different route through a long narrow swamp that extends thro' the woods from the House to the Sea shore terminating in a creek which carries off the waters of this Moraine. In this Place they met with a vast number of Pheasants and ^{kept up} a constant firing that it reminded me of the discharges of artillery at a military review. After going to Woody Island & round all the Fox traps I did not meet with any more birds until I returned to the main woods at Butler point where Mr. W. R. joined me - we then fell in with

a large flock of Partridges but by endeavouring to net them we lost the whole. They complained much of the badness of their shot owing to which they had lost a great number of pheasants. They had only got 9, & 4 partridges which with my 5 made a tolerable hunt. I also got a Hare and the Indian boy Cockaw, Kackee, snow who hunts for the house, shot about a dozen partridges, but there were no Foxes today.

Thursday, Dec. 28. Today nobody went a hunting but myself, every one being employed cutting out & making shoes for the Nipis people. I met with a large flock of white partridges close to one of the Nets, & by endeavouring to get them under the Net I lost the opportunity of shooting at them, so that hitherto these Nets have done more harm than good by holding out the temptation of getting a great many at once, they have presented us securing a number by hgun. I returned home about dinner time without either Fox, Hare, or Bird. The weather is still mild, that is the Therm: is not below the cypher. Friday, Dec. 29. I alone went out today and inspected the whole of the guns and Fox traps - but I got nothing

whatsoever, nor even saw any thing. I returned by the dinner hour, & partook of a Dinner of Roast Pheasants.

The weather is still and lowering with a kind of Snow frost - the Sun just at the cypher.

Saturday, Dec 30. This morning the Therm. was down to 21° below the cypher with a little breeze of wind; this did not deter me from going out however I had a fruitless excursion, there were plenty tracks of partridges but the cold weather drives them into the woods for shelter. - In my absence Musquetoe Boy has arrived with about 40 Rabbits. Two of the Company's Servants Wm Donald - a half Indian - and Saml Kennedy returned from the Inland Port Xaogwiscow whether he has been sent up in the Fall with goods, the distance is estimated to be about 300 miles. From Xaogwiscow Lake Slide River the River of Estmain has its commencement. - in this river between Ek & XL there are 33 Falls or carrying Places. - These 2 poor men are reduced to mere skeletons from want of nourishment. Had they met with relief from some Indian

from they met with on their way down they would have starved to death. - The conduct of the master of that place presents another disgusting example of abused power by a sordid wretch who can deliberately starve his servants & himself with the pretence of saving. - This principle of Economy - a bloke's disposition depraves and tyrannical, enables him to inflict the most urgent distress on those whose misfortune it is to be under his domination. the consequence is, that the men are obliged to resort to the landradians traders to avoid being famished with hunger. - in this way the Company lose some of their most valuable servants.

This fellow's name is Clouston, a native of Okecy. & to prove what he is capable of doing I shall just mention one instance of his riggardiness. he gave to his half starved men a single partridge amongst three, without any thing else for a whole days sustenance, whereas the allowance in partridges here is 3¹/₂ to man besides bread, oatmeal &c. - and even this is quite little enough. The allowance in geese is a goose a day, in ducks 2. Rabbits one & a half, in Fish 4 lbs. in Fresh Beef 2 lbs with 6 lbs of Flour a week. This is full allowance but at present whenever the news of the

Ship's return has reached the natives and
much abridged.

By the return of this Donald I had
an opportunity of witnessing an ex-
traordinary scene of conjugal indifference.
He had been gone more than 3 months
on a long & dangerous journey, doubts
were entertained of his safety and
his wife had shed tears of apprehen-
sion. but now that he was restored to
her she did not wince the smallest
appearance of pleasure or satisfac-
tion, took no more notice of him than
if he had been an other stranger, and
some time elapsed before they spoke
to each other. yet still there is no
want of affection on either side, it
is generally the case with the natives
of the country whether true Indians
or mixed. a husband who has been
long absent will take notice of every
one present but his wife & the wife
is perhaps conversing carelessly with
those around her as if she had not
observed him. probably if informed
of his approach, she will go out of
the way to shun him. This seems
to arise partly from the absence of an-
dent affection. partly from modest
bashfulness & partly from a wish to sup-
press any inordinate appearance of Joy.

Sunday, Dec. 31st. The Therm. was
up to the cypher, but in reality was colder
to the senses than yesterday, owing to a
cloudy humid atmosphere. On attempt-
ing to shave myself today, the skin
followed the Razor & I found that not
only my chin, but nearly the
whole of my face had been frozen
yesterday although I was not sen-
sible of it before. In future I must
be a little more cautious what wear
I go out in, since my flesh seems
to be so susceptible of cold. I staid
at home all day.

Eastmain, Labrador
January 5th 1816

This morning the Thermometer
was 8° below the cypher, the weather
hazy and consequently cold. After
Breakfast Mr. Raflete & I took our gun-
ning pieces, and went round the mar-
gin of the woods to the Southward
but we found no game all along
the coast. at Butter Point we parted
he continued farther to South. & I
examined my Rabbit snares in this
part but getting none, I removed
the snares and then went off to the
Woody Island, where I also met with

nothing, in coming home from
thence I found the cold unpleasant
severe, the wind being right in my
face. - indeed my left arm became
completely benumbed, which was
rather remarkable as both M.R.
and M.Gladman complained of be-
ing overheated. - I got a Hare from
my snares in the Ridge Path. M.
R. got but little. M.G. was toler-
ably successful, he went to the
North side of the River. We all sat
down to a Dinner of excellent roast Beef &
cranberry pie. drank our wine after
dinner, and after tea played at Cards.
Being a day of conviviality I gave the
servants a Gall & a half of Rum, etc.
in addition to what they had besides making
them all very happy. The evening pass-
ed with them in the greatest harmony,
& just about bedtime they came up to
the Governor's room to ask permission
to sing a song which being granted,
they sung a Naval song customary in
Cikney on the Anniversary, complimenting
the Master & Mistress & wishing prosperity
to their House or Biggen & all their concerns
&c. the ceremony concluded with a
toast each and all retired to rest very
happy having drowned all the cares

of life in a cup of oblivion for the night.

Tuesday, Jan 7th. This morning the Ther-
m was 5° below the cypher and the weather
very foggy. - I alone went out today and
got but 3 partridges.

Wednesday, Jan 8th. Today I went
round all the Fox traps & guns, but got no
Foxes. I shot 2 Partridges & returned about
2 o'clock to dinner. - The Therm. was at the
cypher, the weather foggy & blowing a fresh
breeze. - having gone out too thinly dressed
for the purpose of walking light, I felt
the cold rather severely, as for my face
it is now one entire seal & consequently
scarcely sensible to external impressions.

Thursday, Jan 9th. Early this morning
2 Men (Chas. Casner & Bill Donald) were
sent off to make another attempt to get
to Skutumpah. - they will probably go no far-
ther than Goose Tent Island today, and
cross over tomorrow. M. Russell & I intend-
ed to have gone too, but on 2nd thoughts it
was thought better to postpone our jour-
ney till these men return, & hear what
account they give of the passage.

After breakfast we went out a hunting
I got 6 partridges at Woody Island & a fine
red Fox from one of the traps. M.R.
got one Partridge & M.Gladman nothing.
Fine clear weather all day, in the evening

ing there was a Fall of Snow.

Friday, Jan^y 5. Today no one went out but myself & Mr Russell advised me to stay at home, for the weather was by no means inviting. - but I told him I expected to get a Silver Fox, for I had dreamt so. - altho' that was not my intention for going for I put no faith in dreams, yet mine was remarkably verified in this instance in every respect, the very position of the animal coincided with what had been pictured in my imagination. - this Fox was almost entirely black & the more valuable on that account. - these skins sell for, from 10 to 30 Guineas. - so that one of these is no bad day's work. I got also some partridges & came home about 1/2 past 3. the fulfilment of my vision excited a little merriment and I obtained the reputation of being a Conjuror of the first rank.

Today the Thermometer was at the Cypher the weather cloudy & I felt the cold rather unpleasant.

Saturday Jan^y 6. - The Therm^o this morning was 20° below the cypher & the weather beautifully clear. After breakfast I went out

accompanied by Mr R. - but I thought it prudent to return soon as my face was beginning to freeze, & I recollected that there was a possibility of freezing my Nose which if lost would not be so easily reproduced as the skin of my face & therefore a little care is necessary. In the evening the Therm^o continued falling.

Sunday, Dec^r 7th. This morning the Therm^o was 20° below the cypher with a strong breeze of wind from the westward & a hazy atmosphere. - at Noon notwithstanding a very bright sun the Therm^o was 20° below the cypher. - Spent the day reading moral & religious books. -

The 2 men dispatched for Skutumpah not having returned it is presumed they have accomplished the journey.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather Peggy & her little girl came down the river with some Rabbits. the wind was right in their faces, yet neither was frozen. So vigorous is the constitution of these natives, that the most extreme cold, which would freeze an Englishman to death, seems to make so little impression on them as scarcely to discommodate them.

Monday Jan^y 8. The Therm^o this

morning was 30° below the cypher with a moderate breeze from the westward. After breakfast Mr. R. and I went out together but before we proceeded far. Mr. Russell informed me my face was freezing, therefore I returned home.

Tuesday Jan 7th. All the night it was excessively cold but towards morning it became more temperate; at 8 A.M. the Therm. stood at 10° below the cypher & the wind East^{ly}. I went out a hunting today as usual but I got nothing whatever. - The Men sent to Stuttons were expected back today at farthest but they have not arrived.

Wednesday Jan 10th. Today it was blowing fresh from the westward and cold, nevertheless I went a hunting but got nothing. This day has also passed without any arrival from Stuttons.

Thursday Jan 11th. At 8 A.M. the Therm. was 28° below the cypher with the wind from the S. ward blowing a fresh breeze on which account I did not go out but employed myself in finishing a book of Acct^s. I had previously had in

hand. - At 4 P.M. the Indian I mentioned came in for some medicine for one of his wives who, he says, complains of a pain in her sides, & he is much alarmed about her. - not because he loves her but because he has used her ill, for she is the daughter of one Attawayhawn a conqueror & a great man, for besides his magical powers he has 3 wives and 20 children, several of whom are strong robust young men. He will undoubtedly avenge her death upon the head of her husband, if she should happen to be taken to this world.

The weather continued pretty cold all day. at 4 P.M. the Therm. was 24° below the cypher and continued falling. The Men sent to Stuttons not having returned. Mr. Russell begins to be very anxious about them.

Friday, Jan 12. This morning after making up some Medicines for the Indian he went away & I went out a hunting. I got one Fox but seeing the Men coming from Stuttons I made towards them & learned that they had had a very disagreeable journey from the inclemency of the weather & roughness of the ice - they did not arrive here till the 6th day after leaving here, - a day or two previous to that they had nearly

reached the Island, then a Gale of wind
commenced right in their face with
thick weather which forced them to
follow back their track to where they
had spent the night before on arriv-
ing there they were so exhausted & so
overpowered with cold, that had not
the embers the left in the morning
still retained some sparks of fire they
would have frozen from their inability
to light a fire. They succeeded in ac-
complishing the journey on Tuesday
last & left there yesterday. The
accounts from the ships are unspleen-
sant. Fred. Christians the Cook of
the *Providence* died on the 13th Dec. & several
are taking the Survey. the people
are dissatisfied & refractory, but upon
the whole the aspect of Affairs is not
worse than I expected. and that is
very agreeable to me there is no wise
expressed for me to repair to this
Theatre of Misery. The Capt.
seem to be acting in a silly, negli-
gent equivocal manner. they com-
plain of sickness, solicit as much
supplies as can be sent them, and
yet omit making any statement
of what they have by them & what
will be further requisite for their
subsistence, altho they have been

requested to do so. The Therm. all the
forepart of this day remained at 15° be-
low & in the evening fell to 30° below the
Cypher. the night was uncommonly
clear & beautiful. At 10 P.M. 3 men
out of 3 who were sent about 60 miles
to the North. to a fishing place) ar-
rived complaining they were starving,
not being able to procure any thing by
their own exertions. In their journey
they found a Fox in an Indian's trap
which they took out & eat nearly raw.

Saturday, Jan^y. 13th. By the repeated
& violent cracking of the House, which
is sometimes loud enough to resemble the
report of firearms. I was informed dur-
ing the night that the cold was very
intense. In the Morning I found the
Therm. showing 37° below the cypher,
that is nearly 70° of frost. During the
day it blew a strong breeze of wind which
rendered it impossible to go far from
home without getting frozen. The
3 Men who came from the N. last night
are all severely frozen. two of them so
much so, that I think they will lose
part of their nose and ears. Some men
who were imprudently sent across the
river to overhaul the fishing nets, re-
turned with their faces partially frozen.

The fishing Nets which in some seasons are very productive in this place, at present don't repay the trouble of attending to them. - only 4 small fish were got today out of 5 Nets. - The catfish are our only dependance, & they are not only poor in flesh but their services can ill be dispensed with, they drag our Fuel from the woods & they bring Hay for the subsistence of the younger ones from Woody Island, 3 miles distant.

Sunday, Jan 7th 14 The Therm^o was 41° below the cypher this morning, nevertheless I took a walk in the forenoon & returned to dinner without getting at all frozen. - The cold has now penetrated into the house to such a degree that notwithstanding the large fires that are kept burning, it is necessary to keep up a constant succession of red hot Irons in the cellar to prevent the potatoes & every thing being destroyed. In the sitting apartment no cold is felt. on the contrary I never experienced so little during a winter in Britain.

Monday Jan 7th 15 A great change has taken place in the weather this morning the Therm^o was 6° below the cypher, but

blowing a violent gale of wind & drifting furiously. - In the afternoon poor industrious old Peggy arrived, not as usual groaning under a load of provisions for the place, but pinched with hunger and complaining of famine. - A severe weather brings with it a scarcity, for it confines animals to their holes & lurking places, so that the Indians call this month, the Stingy Moon. - In the evening the Therm^o was 20° above the cypher.

Tuesday Jan 16. - This morning the Therm^o was 25° above the cypher and rose to 28°, only 4° of frost, such a considerable change in the space of 2 days. that the Heat, if it may be so called, would be intolerable were it not blowing a fresh gale. - We went severally out hunting today but got nothing whatever.

Mr Donald and family and all the extra women were sent away up the river to hunt for themselves and the horses. Three men were sent with them to haul down some salt geese that were left at the 1st carrying place last Spring.

Wednesday, Jan 17. This morning the Therm^o was 8° below the cypher and the weather all day pleasant. - After breakfast Mr Gladman & Mr Russell went to set Rabbit snares, & I took my accus-

turned walk along shore, but there is nothing scarcely of any description to be got. - One white partridge I shot, and a wood partridge by Mr Russell was the sum of the day's hunt. - The Nets in the Fishing Creek turned out no better today than usual. - Old Peggy is confined at the Factory by illness. - The Men who had their faces so much frozen are doing well they will experience no bad consequences from it. - Mr Rowland who was sent off to Moose on the 23^d of last month is daily expected back from thence. - At 9 P.M. Mr Budge one of those sent up the River yesterday returned hauling 27 geese of the largest size, he had walked not less than 30 miles in Snow Shoes with this heavy load.

Thursday, Jan 18th. The Therm^o this morning was 15° below the cypher and the weather fine. I went out a hunting as usual but after toiling all day caught nothing. - This afternoon the remaining two of the reserved passengers who were at Meade Bay the North[?] fishing place, came home being unable to procure themselves a subsistence there.

Friday, Jan 19th. Snowy weather and extremely mild, at one time blowing fast but there was only 4" of Frost. I got a Red Fox by this day's hunt but nothing else. Mr Russell & Mr Gladman who were also out got nothing at all. - In the afternoon I cupped the Lt. beamer on the knee, which he got injured in his late journey from Struttons. Spent the fore part of the evening at cards according to established custom, and then after Supper part in chatting till very late & the conversation terminated as is invariably the case, with a Philippic against the Hudson's Bay Company, their govern^{or} & all their concerns.

Saturday Jan 20th. This morning the Therm^o was 20° below the cypher with a fresh breeze of wind from the Southward, and I employed myself with some writing at home. Mr R went out in my stead, but got nothing. In the evening it began to blow & drift hard.

Sunday, Jan 21st. Today it was a complete storm, blowing a strong gale from the westward & drifting excessively, however it was not very cold. Tomorrow if the weather permits Mr Russell intends undertaking a journey to Struttons & I

was to have accompanied him, but he wishes me to remain, as a kind of Deputy Governor in his absence. Monday 21st 2 men returned from up the river and brought 50 Rabbits from the Indian Musquetoe Bay, and Factory women there. it is much fewer than was expected.

Monday, Jan 22nd. This Morning the Therm^o was 26° below the cypher with bright sunshine the whole day. There could not be better travelling weather, yet Mr Russell did not commence his projected expedition, he had made no previous preparation evidently with a view of procrastinating the journey, the anticipation of which don't seem to give him any satisfaction. However today every thing was arranged ready for setting off in the morning.

I took my usual walk round the traps, guns & Rabbit snares, but only got one Hare. Did not see a single Bird, and a Fox had escaped after being caught in the Trap.

Tuesday, Jan 23rd. This Morning all the Storm was over by 5 o'clock, break fast over by 6, and as soon as day dawned Mr Russell set off on his journey

attended by two men, one with the other without a Sledge. In 2 dogs each drawing a Sledge or sled as they are here called, it is a vehicle of a very simple construction, merely slips of thin deal sewed together, they are from ten to 12 feet in length, and about one foot in breadth or better, rather broader before than behind and curved up at the fore end to fend off the snow. Articles are secured on these by strings & a band from each side of the fore end goes round the waist of the person who draws it along. A Dog will draw from 120 to 130 lbs weight a 100 lb or 1 Cwt. is considered a fair burthen for a man, the men take a great deal more.

The weather was mild & the day proved most charming, which enabled the travellers to go right out to Sea & proceed to Struttons at once, without going that round about way by Goose tent Island and running the risk of being weather bound there. I spent the day hunting as usual but got nothing. Mr Russell who was out also shot 3 birds.

Wednesday, Jan 24th. The weather all day very stormy. Blowing hard from the Westward, snowing & drifting. I went out in the forenoon to examine.

the Fox traps, but I was fain to return without seeing the whole. It will be well if Mr. Re performed the journey yesterday had he gone to Goose Bent Island. There he must have remained. he could neither have advanced nor returned today - and the best accommodations they could have had either to rest or sleep in, is a hole in the snow. This they form of any convenient size, with their Katchahs & snowshoes it is lined with the Bark of the Pine Tree and contains a fire. The covering is the canopy of Heaven & this Lodge is called a Barrackade. - which is the Headquarters every night of those who travel in winter.

Thursday, Jan 25th This morning the Therm. was 32° below the upper with a breeze from the NW & clear weather. I went out as usual but only got my face froze for my trouble.

About 2 P.M. J. Rowland & two others arrived from Moose in a pitiful condition from cold, hunger & fatigue. Rowland left here on the 23^d & reached Moose on the 4th Jan & dispatched back again on the 6th he has therefore been perpetually travelling during a full month, exposed to the most severe weather, working like a Beast, and with such a scanty

allowance of victuals, that when they arrived. The men of the strongest constitution they were almost speechless. - The Intelligence from Moose is of the most gloomy nature. They have famine staring them in the face. - even the cattle which are the chief resource in the time of scarcity, are dying for want of food. - allowed to die from want and the charge of that place seems to be vested in a weak insignificant person who seems very unfit to conduct the Co's affairs at so desperate a crisis. The party of returners engages whom I mentioned on the 15th of Dec. to be in danger of perishing on their journey from Rupert's House towards Moose. all reached Hannah Bay (an intermediate Port) with their lives, except one man named John Smith who died by the way & became a ready prey to the Foxes & other ravenous animals.

A McNewart, who had gone with a party of men to settle a post somewhere on the land has returned with his family & 12 men to Moose in a starving state, previously however he lost a Man, it is said he was frozen to death. - McGreene the Surgeon at Moose is said to be at the point of Death. - Some Starving Indians had been in there imploring relief. The packet sent from Estimam

containing our letters &c. for Europe had been sent up to M^r Vincent who is in the interior at a Port called New Brunswick. but the wise ones at Moose afterwards considered that it could not be forwarded to Europe from thence. M^r Gladman Senr. undertook to go to Montreal by the same route as M^r Russell & to wait in ^{10th} Jan^y and accordingly he set off from Moose on the 4th of Jan^y. 1846. —

The Therm^o. kept falling all this evening at 10 P.M. it showed at 40° below the Cypher.

Friday Jan^y 26th. The Therm^o in the morning was 38° below the Cyph^r. and continuing cold all day. I did not venture out.

Saturday Jan^y 27th. This morning the Therm^o. was 41° below the Cypher which rather intimidated me for some time from going out but while I was demurring the Th^o rose to 30°. I ventured abroad. — the day proved very pleasant. — But my hunt was unsuccessful. I got only 1 Wastage. At 4 P.M. M^r Russell arrived in high spirits & much pleased with his reception & treatment at Fort Ross & I am happy to observe he seems desirous to ameliorate their situation.

The Officers are all enjoying perfect health but a great number of the men are ill of the Scurvy and several I fear will fall victims to it. I received a letter from the Surgeon of the Edgystone on ~~my~~ the subject of the complaints of my absence, but I did not think it necessary to take any notice of any of his insolent epistles. — A request is made by M^r Bridley that I should go to Moose if I have no objections in consequence of the illness of M^r Greene.

Sunday Jan^y 28th. Today the weather was partly sun and very pleasant; in the forenoon I took my usual walk & spent the afternoon in reading.

Speaking today on the probability & propriety of my going to Moose at present. M^r R. seems to disapprove of it. 1st because he thinks the journey too arduous a task for me to perform & 2nd he thinks it would be improper to leave here in case of any thing happening to the other Surgeon which would leave the Sick totally destitute in this quarter. — I intend paying them a visit the first opportunity & would strongly recommend a convenient number of the Sick Sailors to be sent here, to preserve their health & prevent the unnecessary trouble of taking provisions there for them.

Monday. Jan^y 29th. The fore part of the day very mild and pleasant with light snow. - I was out as usual but only got a hare. - Just as I reached home a violent storm commenced. - An Ox was killed today & other preparations made for forwarding a supply to the Ships.

Tuesday Jan^y 30th. This morning the Gale was on the decline & the Therm^o. down to 25° below the upper. The Journey to Streethons being deferred for tomorrow. I staid at home all day to be fresher for the walk.

Wednesday. Jan^y 31st. This morning at 5 o'clock all were astir and ready for the journey. - Mr. R. considering my liability to freeze, pressed me to accept the use of his leather dress & Indian Stockings, with which I equipped myself & commenced my pedestrian excursion over the expansive waste of Ice and Snow. 3 Men & 3 dogs hauling sleds laden with provisions and other necessaries accompanied me. - one was appointed more particularly to attend to me "to take care of me" that was his charge, this to be sure was paying me a poor

compliment, but I cannot be too grate-
ful to Mr. M^r Russell for their tender
care over me. About 6 o'clock we set
off and by daylight were marching with
confident safety over the icy ocean
hushed to silence by the all subduing
power of frost. - The horizon was
20' below the surface & the morning at
first promising, but as day advanced
it became hazy, and we were for some
times at a loss what direction to march
very imprudently we had come
away without a compass which
would have enabled us to proceed with
more confidence. - The people wished
to go for goose Tent Island but I advised
them to persevere a little longer & pre-
sently the hills of Bruttons began
to rise above the horizon. - as soon
as it was sufficiently distinct I took
a little refreshment and walked on
before the people who advanced but
slowly with their heavy burdens,
however I nearly had reason to regret
my temerity, for it soon after became
so thick that I could neither see the
land nor the men, & I had nothing to
guide me in my course but by
observing the form of the little
banks of drift snow (which are all

pointed in one direction) before the land
became completely obscured, and I deter-
mined my course by them & hummocks of
ice. - as I approached the land it be-
came more visible, and I had judged
so correctly as to walk straight into the
tent sound and was welcomed in Bruttons
Lodge by 3 P.M. before the men ar-
rived it was quite dark & we were begin-
ning to be very impatient about them
when they put up their appearance.
Instead of finding the officers a prey
to misery and discontent, I was happy
to find them all enjoying good health
& living in good will and harmony
among themselves. The house has been
made tolerably commodious & com-
fortable, containing one apartment
for the Master & Surgeon to sit & sleep
in, one larger for the Captains &
general Mess room, & under the same
roof, but separated by the passage is
another apartment in which till
very lately the crews of both Ships
have all been huddled. - to this perhaps
the sickly state of the people may in
a great measure be attributed. At present
some of the Sick are removed into
Tents & besides there is a wooden hut
which was made on purpose for the

Sick & therefore called the Hospital.
I had brought with me a Keg of Rum
to treat my brother Officers - who en-
joyed a very jovial evening & the
Merry god was worshipped with so
much zeal that few of them were
able to go to Bed. for my own part
I had no bed to go to but wrapped up
in a Blanket and a skin rested my
weary limbs upon the top of a chest
& passed a cold comfortless night call-
ing in vain for Morpheus to drown the
sensations of pain cold & fatigue in
the downy delight of balmy sleep.

Thursday, Feb 1st. Today the
weather was clear and fine. In
the forenoon I inspected the people
most of whom have got the Scurvy
brought on in some degree by want
of proper nutriment & the severity
of the climate, but fostered by their
own idle nasty habits. The per-
mission of going to Ck was made
to 6 or 7 of them who will un-
derstand the journey, but instead of
gratefully availing themselves of
this permission they appear reluc-
tant and some absolutely refuse,
those who would wish to go & are in
perfect health cannot be spared for

there are now scarcely as many men
as are necessary to take of the sick out
Friscood &c. - The Men it appears have
been refractory from the beginning &
in one instance were guilty of actual muti-
ny, and the two Captains are so feeble
and pusillanimous that they have lost
their authority altogether & the men
force them to do as they (the men) please.
I never was more thankful for being at
Cantonment than at this moment, were I
confined to this den of Infamy I should
soon die of Despair - indeed I should wish
to die.

The evening was spent
like the last with great jollity & at a
late hour I laid me down in the Hudson
Way stile on the Floor & enjoyed a night
of comfortable & refreshing repose.

Friday, Feb 2nd. The weather
proving unfavorable, we could not re-
turn to Ck today - it was blowing a
fresh gale from the NW with drift.

Rather an awful circumstance took
place here this morning, one of the
Edgerton's men was found dead in his
bed, stiff & cold. altho' his bedfellows had
seen without suspecting any thing of
the kind. On hearing of the circum-
stances, I went to see what effect it had
upon the others many of whom would
appear to be at the brink of the grave

themselves as I entered the room the ghastly
corpse had just been lifted out of the
and laid upon a chest while the specta-
tors were all standing round regarding
it with total indifference some utter-
ing the most blasphemous imprec-
ations - others joking to the dead body.
in fact it seemed to be more an object
of mirth than of concern to them.

They seem me and all a set of most
obdurate unprincipled villains.

In the course of the day some Po-
chacco was distributed in small quan-
tities amongst the most necepsitous
of the Sick. - when those in health
immediately declared they would
not get fuel for the sick. the Capt.
nor any one else unless they had the
same as the sick in every respect
justifying their conduct with the ob-
servations that "the Sick were only
men like themselves & entitled to
no more attention." - The consequence
was that the Capt. immediately
complied with their demands.

Saturday, Feb 3rd. This Morning
it was very cold, but the weather was
clear and the wind in our back for
going to E. N. therefore preparations
were made for the journey & we

set off about day light. Only four
sailors had been prevailed upon to go &
these being unable to perform the jour-
ney in one day, they were sent forward
to Goose Point Island under the guidance
of three of the Factory Men. The other
5 men & I went straight on & reached
Eastmain about 4 P.M.

Sunday, Feb 4th. The Therm^o was
40° below the cypher with a breeze from
the Eastward, rather in the face of those
coming from G. Point Island. - I found
myself so little fatigued by my jour-
ney, that I was able to take my cus-
tomary walk round the fox traps, etc.
had been neglected during my absence.

About 11 I met two of the Factory
Men who had come on before, & saw
the remainder at a distance coming
slowly on. - They arrived at E. N. about
2 o'clock with great difficulty, suf-
fering much from their complaints
& exhausted by the journey, some of them
were also a good deal frozen in different
parts. - In the evening it became
very stormy.

Monday, Feb 5th. Throughout the
whole of this day the weather was
one continued Tempest, & I employed
myself within doors with some

of the public writings and on admiring
the Braiter, whom I am happy to
find are not worse from the effects of their
long and painful walk.

Tuesday Feb 6th. This morning the
Therm^o was 21° below the cypher & the
weather throughout the day very
fine. After writing a while in the
morning I took my accustomed tour
round all the Fox traps & cleared them
of the Snow which drifted over them in
yesterday's storm. I got only 1 Partridge.

In the after part of the day I was
again occupied with public writing
a packet being to be sent off to Moore
tomorrow & every journey in this coun-
try requires a deal of preparation.

Wednesday Feb 7th. This morn-
the two Moore Men set off on their return to
Moore & with them were sent 3 Irishmen
returning passengers who have been main-
tain at or from C. K. since the Ships return
there are yet 3 of those men remaining
who are incapable of performing so
long a journey. the distance may be
from 150 to 180 miles. The Therm^o
remained all day about 13° below the
cypher & the weather rather hazy
with light snow. I did not go
hunting today as I meet with so

little encouragement. The Month is not
fairly very appropriately called the Stinky
Month.

Thursday Feb 8. Throughout the
whole of this day the weather was stormy
cold and disagreeable. no one went from
home today. I was employed copying
the public correspondence & attending
to my pupils who are now making con-
siderable progress under my tuition.

Friday Feb 9. The weather still
continues stormy and unpleasant.

The men who lately went for Moore will
be unable to pursue their journey if
they have travelled these 2 days. They will
be severely frozen & if they are still lay-
ing at Goose Tent Island they will soon be
in want of food for they were only vic-
tualled for 4 days to carry them to Ric-
perts House a distance of 70 miles & they
can only be 15 miles on their way now.
so that at all events whether they are go-
ing forward or seeking shelter in the woods
they are suffering from the inhospita-
bility of this Region, but such occurrences
are so common that they never excited
pity, if they reach some place bare-
ly with their lives. their sufferings
are put out of the question.

In the evening ~~at~~ the storm en-
creased.

to a complete tempest. & Mr Russell
having a large washing of clothe hang-
ing out, in order to save them from
being broken to pieces, the MR. & I
went out to bury them under the snow
but I was very glad to retreat into the
House again with my Face a little fu-
zen. Altho' the Therm. is not more than
20° below the cypher, yet when blowing
strong, the effect is equal to 90° of frost in
calm weather.

Saturday Feb 10th. Still the wea-
ther continued all day stormy, at
Night however the Gale was subsi-
ding. - A Cow was killed today & the
whole saved out to the Men for their re-
stions during the following week.

Sunday Feb 11th This Morn'g. the
weather was more settled & the day
what we would call in this country
tolerably fine. Having been nearly
a week confined to the house, I took
my ordinary walk round the Fox traps
today, and put them to rights; I should
conceal the truth if I did not confess
that I also carried my fowling piece
over my shoulder, for I really conceive
there is no more harm in killing a
Partridge with the Gun in these times
of scarcity, than there is in going

to take a Fox out of a Trap or a Rabbit
out of a Snare, - and that there is no
more harm in doing either, than in
taking a pure walk on the Sabbathday
for the purpose of recreation, or cooking
a fine dinner for the sake of eating it.

At 5 P.M. Piggy after a longer absence
than usual, arrived, bringing a few
Rabbits & a Porcupine. - The latter one
which when stripped of its hair and quills
very much resembles a pig, except its ears
which is more like that of a Rabbit, its tail
is thick and short, - and its legs are also very
short, so that it is not calculated for speed,
indeed its leads a most indolent life, it feeds
upon the Bark of trees & when it begins with
a Tree it never leaves it till it has quite
devoured it of its covering, it then ascends
& falls to another close at hand, which in
like manner it sticks by till all its
Bark is gone. - These devoured trees
lead to a discovery of the depredator which
is secured by cutting down the tree and
dispatching the animal with the hal-
shot before it makes its escape. - The
quills are used by the women for doing
fancy work, and when dyed of various
colours are very ornamental.

In the after part of the day there was
a heavy fall of snow with mild weather.

Monday, Feb 12. Today it was blowing
fresh in from Sea and cold consequent
ly I did not go out. wrote letters to
Capt Davison. Mr Pearson & Mr King
prepared some medicine & read at
intervals. An Ox was killed for the
purpose of sending some Beef to Stut-
tens tomorrow. In the evening I
became subject to the Toothache, which
with some other trivial ailments made
me half fancy myself ill.

Tuesday, Feb 13. After passing a
night in great agony & restlessness, I
fell over into a refreshing slumber just
before day-break and awoke consider-
ably better but still remain rather list-
less and unwell.

At 7 A.M. 3 Men & 3 Dogs with sleds
laden with Beef &c for Stutten, com-
menced their journey. The Therm was
then so low as $3\frac{1}{4}$ below the cypher,
but the weather being clear & still
this day was thought sufficiently fa-
vourable for the expedition, but they
had not been long gone before it began
to blow & drift quite in their face &
the men not returning produced a good
deal of uneasiness, for if they per-
ished they must inevitably get sever-
ely frozen, they saw the risk of losing

their way and being beyond the reach
of shelter or succour they would assured-
ly lose their lives. The only expedient
to be adopted for self-preservation in a
case of this kind is to lay down & let the
snow drift over them until the storm
abates. Travelling along shore is com-
paratively destitute of danger for the woods
are always at hand to resort to, on any
emergency. but a storm arising sud-
denly when at sea, places those who are
caught in it at a distance from the shore
in a very serious dilemma. About noon
the appearance of one of the Dogs, some-
what mitigated our fears. The Men
arrived soon after, a good deal frozen in
the face as was to be expected. They
left their sleds on the Ice near to a
Barren Island called Robison's about
8 miles from here.

Wednesday, Feb 14. This morning
the weather was still such as to pre-
vent any intercourse with Stutten,
being cold and blowing from the N.W. the
direct course to these Islands. The day
being in other respects tolerable, I
took my usual walk but got nothing.
The Thermometer shews about
20° below the Cypher.

Thursday Feb. 15. This Morning the Therm. was 31° below the cypher, the weather clear and calm, so that the people resumed their journey to Strutton at an early hour in the morning. It proved a most charming day and the partridges which for some time back have been obliged to seek shelter in the Woods, were induced to venture out & regale themselves on the Willow birds their usual food. However I enjoyed my ordinary success - being pestered with a pair of awkward snow shoes. Several times fell in the snow & rendered my gun useless. From getting wet, she was every now & then missing fire and I only got 6 Birds.

After fatiguing my body & tiring my patience, I came home & enjoyed a hearty & delicious Dinner viz. a roast Porcupine. which is really excellent. - Porcupines a few years ago were so plentiful at E.M. that they were given to the Servants in common with other game, but now they are so rare as to be considered a present, worth sending to a great distance. - Mr. & Mrs. were out hunting today, but only got 2 partridges.

Friday, Feb. 16.th Today the weather proved tolerably mild tho' hazy. The hue and cry having been raised that there was a great deal of game about. I prosecuted my hunting with indefatigable assiduity from morn till night, but got nothing whatever.

The party went to Strutton yesterday and arrived there about 3 P.M. and returned here today. - by them I received letters informing me of the death of another of the Hindoo's seamen and more are likely to share the same fate.

Four Indian families, who have gone to Charlton to hunt, have lately visited Strutton & brought them 120 rabbits and 14 Partridges. - Messrs. Donovan & Ramsay (the 2nd Masters of the 2 Ships) returned with the Indians to Charlton, to try their fortune in hunting on that Island.

Saturday, Feb. 17.th This Morning the Therm. was 30° below the cypher with calm weather and bright sunshine, a fit day to exhibit one of those Meteors common in this country which mock the imagination with an appearance of reality and are extraordinary & entertaining. On such days all the Islands of the Sea which at other times are invisible from

their distance are lifted up & appear not only full in view but also near at hand, & much larger than they naturally are. They seem as if viewed through a magnifying glass, with their rocks, woods, precipices quite distinct & streaked with snow which lays in the vallies, indeed instead of a boundless expanse of ice and snow, the view seems bounded on every side by a bold coast. - when the prospect breaks up, this changes to the appearance of all sorts of curious figures, as ships with sails, streamers & flags, antique elevated castles, with decayed towers & 50 forms which fancy finds a resemblance for, in Nature. - As the day advanced the whole vanished into nothing and the groups of riches ascended in the air.

These phenomena are generally seen when the atmosphere is hard or condensed by extreme cold, when at the same time the Sun shines bright and the air is still. This appearance of Land from the sea, Mariners call "looming of the land".

My hunt today was not more productive than yesterday. M.R. who was also out, got one Partridge & M. Gladman none. - At Night the *Aurora borealis* were very brilliant.

Sunday, Feb 18. The Therm. 30° below the Cypher in the Morning but rose 16 above in course of the day, consequently the weather may be considered warm. - Spent the Day, chiefly reading.

Monday, Feb 19. This Morning the Th. was only 2° below the cypher, but blowing a keen piercing breeze from the Northward. M. R. & myself went severally out a hunting, but not meeting with any thing. I employed myself in the woods setting Rabbit snares, the temperature being more favorable for manual work than for some time past. - My brother hunter had no better success to boast of than myself. - In the evening the Therm fell to 15° below.

Tuesday, Feb 20 This Morning I rose early with an intention to go to some distance to set Rabbit snares but on looking at the Therm. I found it 36° below the cypher, a great deal too cold for my hands. - After Breakfast I took my usual tour (with my gun over my shoulder) all round the Fox traps, but I only got a Hare & shot a poor Squirrel. The day was uncommonly fine, being quite calm & the Sun powerful.

Wednesday, Feb 21st. A very charming day, the Therm^o in the morning was only 8° below. In course of the Day it rose to 25° above the cypher. I amused myself all the forenoon, setting snares. Mr. R. having gone a shooting over my district, he got 2 Partridges.

Thursday, Feb 22nd. I went out at 8 o'clock this morning to set rabbit snares and took an old Indian woman along with me as a guide and assistant. The day was extremely fine but rather too hot. - The Therm^o was 11° below the cypher in the morning & rose all forenoon until 1/2 past 2. it was at 28°, only 4 degrees below the freezing point consequently it was quite sultry. I came home along shore but did not see any partridges. Mr. Russell who went a Rabbit snaring also on the North side of the river shot a brace of pheasants. - After spending part of the evening at cards, we all retired early to Bed. with an intention to go off a hunting soon in the morning.

Friday, Feb 23rd. We all rose early this morning to go a hunting according to appointment, but it was snowing heavily & blowing & drifting most

fervently but the temperature of the weather was so very mild that I ventured to brave the storm and go all my rounds. - I only got one Hare & might also have shot a very fine Fox which I surprised laying asleep but unfortunately the badness of the weather had caused me to come out without my gun. - In the evening the gale abated.

Saturday, Feb 24th. This morning Mr. M^r. Mr. R. Mr. G. & I all went a hunting. - the day was extremely fine - rather too warm. - and game was very scarce. - I got 2 Hares & a Black fox from one of the traps. - Mr. M^r. who were across the river got 2 Hares, 2 Pheasants & 1 Partridge. - Mr. Gladman went up the river, but got nothing.

The Therm^o in the morning was 8° below the cypher but about the middle of the day it was 3° above freezing having risen 36° in course of the forenoon. At night it snowed thick and blew hard from the Eastward.

Sunday, Feb 25th. Early in the morning it was so mild as almost to be thawing, with a heavy fall of snow. - but about 10 A.M. the wind veered to the Westward & immediately commenced

a violent tempest which lasted the whole of the day - the Therm. falling rapidly at the same time.

Monday Feb 26th. This morning the storm had subsided and the Therm. was at 10° below the cypher. I went off at 8 A.M. & got back at 5 P.M. with only one Hare - M^r R. who went across the river got nothing. - M^r R. put the Fox traps and guns in order. - a large Fox was got from the traps at Woody Island.

Tuesday, Feb 27th. I took an early Breakfast this morning and hastened out, altho' the Therm. was 37° below the cypher, but I expected a fortunate Hunt in Hares & Foxes, however I was disappointed in both. - also I snort with some Pheasants & wounded several but did not get one. and a single wild partridge was the only reward for my labour. - The day was fine.

Wednesday, Feb 28th. At half past 6 this morning, two men & 3 dogs with a small quantity of beef, went away for Strabtown. The day was very favorable for the journey as the Island could be seen distinctly from here. - I only went part of my usual

sounds today. - A Fox had been eaten in the trap at Woody Island by others of its own species & I saw the creature that committed the deed looking among some bushes but I could not get within gunshot. - M^r Russell got 3 partridges & a pheasant today. M^r R. got a Hare. At Night it blew fresh with snow.

Thursday Feb. 29th. This morning I went out at day break, altho' the weather was rather stormy, expecting to get both Foxes and Hares. but I was rightly paid for my folly by getting neither. - however another Fox had been caught and eaten. - The storm became a complete Tempest and I considered myself fortunate in getting safe home again. - so solicitous were they about me that I found M^r R. out looking for me, being apprehensive that I might lose my way & freeze to death. It was drifting with such fury that it was impossible sometimes to see 10 yards. - the storm continued tremendous the whole day and began to abate in the evening. - These storms are more frequent & more severely felt at Esk than any other part of the country being totally exposed to the North west.

Friday 1st of March. called by the
native Eagle Noon. - This morning
the Therm^t was 34° below the cypher.
the weather clear. - I merely took a
walk round the Fox traps this forenoon
and returned to dinner. - About 3 P.M.
the Men returned from Skutumpah, & I re-
ceived Letters from Capt. D. & M^r Deane.
Another Man died on the 17th of Feb^y
who with the preceding one was buried
on Sunday last. - Several others re-
main dangerously ill, on which ac-
count the Captains have requested
me to pay them a visit the first op-
portunity. - The Four Mates it
seems have all gone to Charlton
to hunt for their living.

Saturday, March 2nd. The Therm^t
this morning was 38° below the cypher.
the weather clear & fine. - M^r Rivers
over the Fox traps today & Southamptⁿ
my snares, but he got no Fox and
I got no Hare. - M^r R. was somewhat
more fortunate she got 2 Hares ac-
cros the River.

Sunday, March 3rd. This Morning
the Therm^t was 36° below the cypher.
the calm, clear & beautiful. -
Spent the whole of the day in reading.

Monday, March 4th. The weather today
was rather cloudy but quite mild; dur-
ing the forenoon I took a tour round
all the Fox traps & guns & my own
snares comprehending a circuit of 10 or
12 miles but I only got 1 Hare. M^r
R. who went to her hunting ground
across the river, got 4 wood partridges,
2 Hares and a Marten - the latter ani-
mal is of the weasel tribe, rather larger
than our Polecat, being about 18 inches
long with a tail 10 inches. the Fur is
is of a brown color & is held in pretty
high estimation. - the skin sells for
10 shillings upon an average. - Above
12,000 are annually imported into Eng-
land from Hudson's Bay and above
30,000 from Canada. - The Indians
are very fond of naming their chil-
dren from this animal in common
with their animals. there are Marten,
Foxes, Hares, Geese, Ducks, Wolves &c &c
are there in England, & probably most of
our names are derived in a similar way.
given by parents in our primitive
state of barbarism, according to their
idol, occupation or the like till by de-
grees names became hereditary, per-
haps this took place at the commencement
of the Christian era, when baptism was

first instituted. - in all probability before that epoch, Men only had one name and each one in a family a different name. - like Nature's children in this country.

Tuesday March 5. The Therm: 20° below the cypher & the weather good but rather bleak and cold. - no one went a hunting today but myself & I only got 1. Pheasant. - what are called pheasants in this country appear to be a species of the Ptarmigan, they are hairy to the toes, and the plumage is of a brown colour resembling the European hen pheasant, yet there is no difference in these between the cock and hen. - they are evidently a species of fowl differing from our common cock.

In the evening 2 Indians - Musquetary and Bow & arrow, came (I judge a Crow) arrived with some Furrs & a few Rabbits.

Wednesday March 6th. This morning Musquetary went away & 2 men along with him to bring some Rabbits from the Factory women who are tenting up the river. - I was out a hunting today as usual but did not see a living creature. - On my return I found

an Indian woman (the wife of Charles Cramer) labouring under a severe indisposition with which she had been suddenly seized during my absence.

An arrival from Moore is now anxiously expected it being a month since the People and Packet were dispatched for that place. - The Therm: in the Morning was 32° at Noon 5° and in the evening 20° below the Cypher.

Thursday March 7th. The Therm: much as yesterday - 31° below in the morning at the cypher at noon & down again in the evening, with a gale of wind from the westward.

I did go a hunting today but my Patience is now completely exhausted my labor being so ill rewarded. - & I feel my sight impaired by the continual glare of the Sun on the boundless fields of Snow. - Mr R. got 4 Hares today.

Friday March 8th. This Morning the Therm: was 32° below the cypher and all day it blew a strong gale from the North: which rendered it desperately cold and prevented any one stirring out that could remain within doors. The last of the Oxen was killed today & there now only remain six or seven

and colors, but must fall a sacrifice also to the necessity of the times, if supplies do not arrive from elsewhere.

Saturday, March 9th. The Therm 28° below the cypher in the morning and the weather fine. Today I took my ordinary tour for the last time before departing for Strullons & as usual got nothing. - Mess^r Russell & Gladman who were also out, had no better success.

Sunday, March 10th. Very changing weather all day & pretty tem- perate. - I staid altogether at home today but a Fox was brought from a trap by one of the men.

Monday, March 11th. The weather very mild, being 2° above the cypher in the morning and about mid-day 36° above. I remained at home busy packing up, previous to my departure as the length of my stay may be uncertain. - Tomorrow is the day appointed for the jour- ney. But this evening it began to blow hard, so that it is doubtful whether the weather will permit us to go. In the afternoon we had a fine Fox chase. - a Fox was coming deliberately past the House, when the

Dogs got scent of him and gave him chase. he took right across the river and got into the woods before the dogs could come up with him. but they were very near him when they were obliged to drop the pursuit. - I spent the evening as customary at cards till supper time. - as customary, spent it in chat chat and sipping grog. after supper time, and as custom- ary retired to bed at 10 o'clock, where the howling of the blast from with- out served to lull me into a peace- ful slumber & as a friend seemed disposed to prolong my enjoyment of comfort, peace & happiness by keeping me from that Den of dis- tress and wickedness.

Tuesday March 12th. The weather continued stormy, blowing in from Sea with Snow & drift. - It was im- possible to undertake the journey & therefore I was contented cyph- er up with the disappointment. Towards noon the wind abated and the Atmosphere became clear.

Wednesday March 13th. Rose at 3 o'clock and found it a most lovely morning. - The Therm

was 22° below the cypher... not a breath of wind out of the heavens, while the Full moon reflected a resplendent lustre over the hoary face of nature and placidly waited to usher in the morn. I set off a little before 6 o'clock and by break of day was marching triumphantly over the trackless element. - Two men and 3 dogs accompanied me. I left them however before we were half way across and I arrived at Stutton Lodge about 1 o'clock, where to my great satisfaction I found there were no more deaths and most of the Sick were in a fair way of doing well. - therefore there is no occasion for me to remain. - Indeed their motive for sending for me arose from a private quarrel Capt. I had had with Beansrain, more than from any particular concern they had for the welfare of the Sick. - their differences seem now to be settled & I am at liberty to march back again as soon as I please. -

The 4 mates, who went to Charlton have all returned, being disappointed in their expectations of procuring plenty game.

Thursday, March 14th. The weather raw and dry with a strong breeze of wind which was sufficient to prevent our returning to East. today, and I passed the day like the rest of my companions, in insipid idleness: they don't seem to have any relish either for reading or any rational amusement which makes the time drag so heavily on that they meet the morning soon with a sneering & welcome the eve because another day is gone.

Altho' the Sick people are said to be better, there are 3 or 4 of whom I form an unfavorable prognosis, one in particular I think cannot survive many days. - Their condition is truly deplorable because it cannot be remedied and the perverseness of the men themselves renders it worse than it need be.

Friday March 15th. I rose from my bed on the floor, about 1/2 past 3 & found the morning out of doors very cold, but quite favorable for returning to Eastonain. - however I did not perform the journey with so much ease as on the former occasion. - I sprained one ankle early in the day & therefore I walked with

pain & difficulty & before I completed the walk I almost required to be hauled on the Sledge. On approaching C.M. I met with one of the men who had been examining the Fox traps. He informed that M Vincent the Governor. M Christie & M Heving arrived here the same day we went away & knowing the nature of Mr Russell's confidential correspondence with the Captains, I dispatched the snow on before us with the packet of letters with orders to give it privately to M R. - which was a very fortunate precaution as M R. informed me & he thanked me sincerely for being so considerate. I was overcome with fatigue, pain & various conflicting passions that I was put to bed nearly senseless. - M Vincent and the other gentlemen all visited me in the course of the evening.

Saturday, March 16th The doctor renewed smother of the Gents over my head, elevated to that pitch by plentiful libations of grog which they continued till a late hour in the morning; disturbed any repose during the night, but in the morning I was so far recovered as to be able to get up to break

fast, the still very lame. - The gentlemen from Moore being the intelligence of the Duke of Wellington's most glorious victory over Buonaparte on the 18th of June. - M. Greene the Surgeon at home died in the beginning of January & it is wished that I would fill his place, & hints were thrown out to me on the subject, but I anticipated a final refusal, by expressing my dislike to the country in general.

M Vincent it seems, has been invested with judicial powers, to try & punish all offenders within the Company's Territories both by Sea & Land, and under the cloak of this authority, it is evidently his intention to criminate Capt. Towner in some way or other if he can to gratify a private pique.

M Heving his arch counsellor, ~~has~~ ^{was} prime Mischiefs-maker has also a gringe at Capt. T. likewise at Bournain. with minds thus biased, they pretend to dispense justice. M Christie is another counsellor, but he is the dupe of the other two & passively assents to whatever they propose. Mr Russell is honored with the Dignity of Sheriff, and Budge one of the Men is appointed Constable. The Hailors who are here have undergone an ex-

amination, and the principal engine
of the Examiners was, respecting the
state of the Ice, the necessity for the Ships
returning. The conduct of Capt. T. &c.
These illiterate men they think fit tools
to answer their purposes, whereas a
person of a more intelligent mind &
impartial disposition would defeat
their ends, & therefore don't wish take
the deposition of such a person. I, for
instance, they say, must be unacquain-
ted with nautical affairs & therefore can-
not be a judge of the propriety or im-
propriety of the Captains' proceedings
at the time in question.

Another of these violent storms
which we so repeatedly experience
at E.M. raged the whole of this day
with extreme cold.

Sunday, March 17th The weather still
continues cold and windy but if it is
settled by tomorrow morning Mr. Russell
& Mr. Christie with a party of men go to
Struttons. and preparations were
all day making for that journey.

After dinner (perhaps when the
winds began to operate) Mr. Christie
proposed that I should accompany
them to Struttons, & this proposition was
warmly seconded by the Governor & by
Mr. Riving who alleged that a candid &

uninfluenced opinion was required of the
state of the sick, the causes of their sickness,
and whether the Surgeon had been support-
ed or opposed by the Capt. in the measures
he wished to adopt in the treatment of
the Sick. and he (Mr. R.) contended that
Mr. Beaumont was a man of such notorious
bad character that he was not to be depend-
ed upon & declared that he had been unat-
tentive to the sick. I defended Mr. B's
conduct, opposed to the others malignity
and prejudice, for I plainly foresaw it
was his earnest wish to have Beaumont
deposed & place me in his stead at Strut-
tons. therefore I refused to go on the plea
of inability. They assured me I should
be conveyed there without giving me any
trouble in a Cabriolet or Carryall drawn
by Dogs. I persisted in declining & after
some questions asked me by Mr. Vincent
the subject was dropped.

Mr. Riving during the evening flattered
well at the Bottle, & tried to prevail upon
the others to keep it up, because it was
St. Patrick's Day he being a native
of Ireland. but none seemed inclined
to pay homage to St. Patrick.

Monday, March 18th The Thermom.
was 35° below the cypher, with fine weather
& Mr. Russell & Christie with

6 men & 6 Dogs set out for Struttons the whole party were armed the Dogs excepted. - All forenoon a keen wind blew from the SW quite in the face of the Travellers, so that they would have an unpleasant walk.

Still a little lame. I went across the river to endeavour to get some pheasants that have been seen there, I saw Dec 4 but could not get a shot at them. I got a Rabbit out of one of Mr Rissman's traps about 2 o'clock, dinner was just on the table. Counsellor Keeney had nearly got out of bed & not having had more an exhilarating dose, he was sullen and surly, before bedtime however he was pretty well primed & ripe for mischievous contrivances & there seems a good deal of laying of heads together. I studiously avoid their company as I don't wish to be an accomplice in any of their plots.

Tuesday, March 19th. Today the weather was calm mild & clear. & on taking my daily walk I found the heat quite oppressive. The Therm. at Noon was 20° above the zero - a difference of 55° since yesterday morning. - I caught a white partridge in one of my Rab.

but snares today, but got none with the Gun.

Wednesday, March 20th
In the forenoon I took my usual tour in the forenoon round the Fox traps & Guns, and for the first time got a Fox laying dead at one of the guns. I did not reload the piece, being fearful of Accident. - I employed myself for some time setting snares, to amuse ^{me} while I waited to see if the Party returned from Struttons, but they did not arrive.

The Nets in the Fishing Creek continue to produce nothing, but attempts have been renewed to get some Fish by hooks set under the Ice. a man is occupied cutting holes through the Ice all over the river for this purpose and several Fish have been already caught of the kind called here Mithy or Mavi a corruption of the Indian name Melapatooh.

The weather today was very mild but overcast - in the evening a tremendous Tempest commenced & raged with unabated violence all night and began to subside towards Morning.

Sr. M. Hudspeth