

the hands of Nature, which takes pleasure in variety; some were sharp, others blunt; some round, and some square; some high, and some low. In a word, it was a road of iron; and, after all, they had to carry on their backs the houses in which they were to lodge, and the food that they wished to eat; as for beds, they are found everywhere. He who has built the earth, the rocks, and the woods, has also made the mattresses and bolsters which one must use in following the Savages.

Finally, on the 7th of November, the little band halted to take a short rest before entering the great forests, where their labors would be doubled. Those who carried the cooking utensils, consisting of some kettles, stopped; the sutlers, who had nothing left but a few peas and a little Indian corn, in the bottom of their pouches, produced these; the [100] women cooked the food without butter, without meat, without fat, without oil, without salt, and without vinegar. Appetite supplies the place of all sauces; it surpasses all the condiments and appetizers of the best tables in France. They dined without bread and without wine; as for supper, such a thing had not been mentioned for a long time. In the middle of this feast a Captain called out: "Take courage, this is the last time we shall use our kettles. There are no Porcupines; Beavers are scarce, and the snow is not deep enough for capturing Elk. We must be prepared for hunger; be brave and stout of heart, and persevere in your labors." After this harangue, all the Christians, who foresaw the trouble and fatigues in which they were to be involved, not only accepted them cheerfully but they also offered them to our Lord that he might be pleased to stay the fury