

particularly if drank very hot. While making our way slowly, and with difficulty, through the thick tangle of the wiry tea-plant, an otter-path was found, the fresh spraints on which told us that an otter had but recently gone up from the water. Tomah in a very few minutes constructed a dead fall across the path, loaded with a heavy piece of wood, and set with a spring, formed by bending down the branch of a young birch tree. This kind of trap is quickly made; and, although a very simple affair, is certain and effective in its operation. The trap being finished, we passed on to make the circuit of the lake; in completing which, we obtained several shots at a flock of teal, and bagged a very considerable number of those delicious little birds. Returned to the trap, we found the otter (a fine large one), as Tomah had predicted, was there; our firing at the teal had alarmed him, and caused a retreat toward the water. As customary with these animals, he had followed his well-beaten path, and, attempting to pass between the two pieces of wood forming the trap, had disengaged the spring, and brought down the weight upon him; he lay quite dead. Being disengaged, he was thrown over Tomah's shoulder, and then we retraced our steps down the mountain side, to regain our canoe. On reaching it, we found that the eels which had been left in the bottom were nearly all gone, and that the few which remained were much torn and mangled. This mischief had been effected by the mink, a small amphibious animal—a miniature resemblance of the otter, and of similar habits, but incapable of remaining under water so long as its prototype. From the numerous traces in the sand on the margin of the pond, we concluded that a number of these animals had assisted on the occasion, and that they had evidently enjoyed a feast at our expense. If fish are left unguarded, near the water-side, for even a short space of time, in the vicinity of minks, they are almost sure to be stolen; and, on several occasions, I have been robbed, by these impudent little

thieves, of the best portion of a long day's fishing.

Embarking, we proceeded down the beaver pond, and while Tomah was passing the canoe over the dam, I tried the flies in the ripple formed by the rush of water at the outfall, but caught only a few small charr trout; yet I could see that the water abounded with fish which did not notice the flies.—Determined on ascertaining what they were, I put up trolling-tackle, using the brilliant tri-coloured fins of the charr, a most deadly bait—far more certain than the minnow, or, indeed, anything else with which I am acquainted. At the first cast, a host of fish dashed at the troll, and I found that they were silver perch, a very beautiful fish, from half-a-pound to a pound in weight. They are of the perch tribe, with white and glittering scales; the back, which is highly arched, is of a pale transparent green; the lateral line is strongly marked, and partakes of the curvature of the back; the head is wedge-shaped, with a good sized mouth, and smooth tongue.—They have no dark bands on the sides, like the common perch, to which they are greatly superior; to those who are adepts in trolling, they afford capital sport, being strong and active on the hook, and in places which they frequent are generally found in great numbers. A few of these compensated the loss of the eels; and the day being nearly spent, we made the best of our way back to “the fork” to rejoin our companions. We were last at the rendezvous, and, on arriving, found the whole party very busily engaged in eating a dinner, which consisted of fresh salmon, passenger pigeons, and other game, cooked in a variety of ways, that the tastes of all might be suited. There was but brief question and reply until the meal was finished; and then, reclining at our ease, the adventures of the day were recounted, amid clouds from the fragrant Havanahs of the “pale faces,” and the curiously sculptured *tomaagans* (stone-pipes) of the “red man,” the latter of which emitted the pleasant but peculiar odour of “the