

construct these dikes or dams of the same materials as they do their lodges, namely, of pieces of wood of any kind, of stones, mud, and sand. These causeways oppose a sufficient barrier to the force, both of water and ice; and as the willows, poplars, &c., employed in constructing them, often strike root in it, it becomes in time a green hedge, in which the birds build their nests. Cartwright says that he occasionally used them as bridges, but as they are level with the water, not without wetting his feet. By means of these erections the water is kept at a sufficient height, for it is absolutely necessary that there should be at least three feet of water above the extremity of the entry into their lodges, without which, in the hard frosts, it would be entirely closed. This entry is not on the land side, because such an opening might let in the wolverene, and other fierce beasts, but towards the water.

Cuvier, in his table above alluded to,\* assigns only *four* pectoral teats to the female beaver; but Dr. Richardson states that she has *eight*, and the maximum of her young ones at eight or nine.† The number inhabiting one lodge seldom exceeds four old and six or eight young ones; the size of their houses, therefore, is regulated by the number of the family. Though built of the same materials, they are of much ruder structure than their causeways, and the only object of their erection appears to be a dry apartment to repose in, and where they can eat the food they occasionally get out of the water. It frequently happens, says Hearne, that some of the large houses have one or more partitions, but these are merely part of the building left to support the roof. He had seen one beaver-lodge that had nearly a dozen apartments under the same roof, and, two or three excepted, none had any communication but by water. Cartwright says, that when they build, their first step is to

\* See above, p. 350.

† Fn. Boreal. Amer. i. p. 107.