

rity with a crew of four men and a boy is thus dignified,) gave orders to raise the mast, and one of our tars came down where I and my family were lying, to make the lower end of it fast. It so happened that he could not in a moment lay his hands on the proper piece of timber which was prepared for the purpose, and he substituted the first bit of wood that came in his way. For a short time all went on cheerily: our clumsy and heavy-laden bark stemming the current of the St. Lawrence at the rate of five knots an hour; when as we ran too close into shore, the top of our mast caught in the branches of a lofty tree, which bent far over the river. The bit of wood which had been so carelessly made use of, gave way, and in the twinkling of an eye down came mast and sails with a most alarming crash. Through the mercy of Providence no person was injured, though Mrs. H. escaped being killed or miserably mangled, only by having a moment before changed her seat, and a woman and child were lying on deck immediately under where the mast fell.

During the greater part of the passage our boat was drawn by oxen or horses, of which we sometimes had as many as eight; and when these, from the nature of the shore, could not be employed, the crew shoved us on with long poles tipped with iron. Their manner of using these was to us both new and amusing. They stood, one behind the other, at the fore part of the boat, with their faces to the stern, then plunging the poles into the bottom of the river, each man bent forward till his face nearly touched the deck, and then while the other end of the pole was fixed firmly against his shoulder, he moved forwards as if on all fours, sometimes using one hand as an additional leg, and sometimes supporting himself altogether merely by the assistance of the pole. When the first man reached the limits of his march, they all stood erect, and after withdrawing the poles, wheeled about to post themselves again at the stern, and go through the same fatiguing manœuvre.

Once or twice our boat, with several others, was taken in tow by a steamer, and drawn along for short distances. When you come to the rendezvous, and are lying to for the arrival of the steamer, you will be glad