

rolled up an inclined plain formed by a pair of "skids," as shown in the engraving at the head of this chapter. A stout chain was attached to the sled and passed around the log, and a pair of oxen tugged at the other end of the chain till the unwieldy mass, sometimes weighing nearly a ton, was hauled on to the sled. This heavy work, as may be supposed, is not without danger; and sometimes serious accidents occur, when only the rude surgery of the foreman or "boss" is available.

But although Lawrence, like a strong-limbed warrior, thus "drank the joy of battle with his peers," he often also felt the warrior's fatigue and sometimes the warrior's peril and wounds. One day a tree in falling struck the projecting branch of another and dashed it to the ground in dangerous proximity to his person, and a portion of it, rebounding, gave him a severe blow on the leg. And at night as he lay his weary limbs and aching joints upon the fragrant hemlock boughs of his berth, his hot and blistered hands often kept him awake, and he contrasted, not without a pang, the quiet and neatness of his little attic chamber beneath his mother's roof with the uncongenial surroundings by which he was environed. The frugal yet clean and appetizing fare of his mother's table, with its snowy cloth and dainty dishes, and above all, her saintly presence beaming with a sacred influence like the seraphic smile of Murillo's *Madonna*, were remembered with a longing akin to that of the Israelites in the desert for the fleshpots of Egypt, as he partook of his mess of pork and beans or Irish stew and drank out of his tin pannikin his strong green tea, unflavoured with milk. Hunger, however, gave a zest to his appetite, and the monotonous fare of the camp was sometimes varied by the killing of a deer or the snaring of a covey of partridges.

Lawrence was not without spiritual contests also as well as conflicts with the giants of the forest, and the former were the more desperate and deadly of the two. To live a godly life amid all these godless men—for so far as he knew none of them had any personal experience of religion—was no slight task. To confess Christ humbly and modestly, yet boldly and firmly, amid his unfavourable surroundings taxed his Christian resolution.