

AMONG THE RIVER-DRIVERS.

Great endurance is demanded of the riverman. It is characteristic of them, says a writer in the *Outing Magazine*, that they accept whatever comes as a matter of course; or, perhaps more truly, it is their pride never to show emotion of any sort.

One man was dragged out by the collar from a very dangerous predicament between two parts of a breaking jam. To gain safety, his rescuer, burdened by the victim of the accident, had fairly to scale the breast of the falling logs. For ten seconds it looked like sure death to both, but by a combination of audacity and sheer luck they reached the bank.

Most persons would have paused for congratulations and to talk it over. Not they. The rescuer, still retaining his grip on the man's collar, twisted him round and delivered one good kick.

'There, take that!' said he; and the two fell to work without further comment.

One February, during a thaw, Jimmy Downing, a foreman, fell over a dam into the eddy below. He could not swim, and owing to certain sets of current, growth of timber and lay of ice, no one of his men could get to him.

The water was cold, and sucked with terrific force beneath a shelf of ice at the lower end. Sure death again. But Jimmy, befriended of the gods, hit his knee against a single little ledge. Although half-drowned, he managed to cling there, and after a moment to drag himself out.

Jimmy coughed up a quart or so of water, shook himself, and gazed back at the whirlpool whence he had been so miraculously extricated.

"Confound it all!" said he. "I lost my peavey."

NEW ZEALAND'S FOREST.

New Zealand has for some years past been engaged in carrying out an extensive scheme of afforestation to provide against the depletions caused by the growth of the saw-milling industry. For a portion of this work state prisoners are employed, camps controlled by gaol officials being formed near the sites of the various nurseries and plantations. The planting is supervised by experts, and in Rotorua alone more than twenty-four million trees have been permanently planted out by prison labor. Not only have the results been satisfactory from the point of view of afforestation, but also the conditions of the camp life are said to exercise a most beneficial influence on the characters of the prisoners.

PLANT TREES.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

We plant the ship which will cross the sea;

We plant the masts to carry the sails,
We plant the plank to withstand the gales,

The keel, the keelson, and beam and knee;
We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

We plant the houses for you and me;
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,

We plant the studding, the laths, the doors,
The beams and siding, all parts that be;
We plant the house when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

A thousand things that we daily see;
We plant the spire that out-towers the crag,

We plant the staff for our country's flag,
We plant the shade, from the hot sun free;

We plant all these when we plant the tree.

—Henry Abbey.

TREE CUTTING UP-TO-DATE.

For some time it has been known that a wire drawn tight and heated by an electric current red hot would cut its way through a thick tree. Mr. Hugo Gautke, a German inventor, has improved this process by causing the wire to become incandescent simply by friction in working its way through a tree. A steel wire one twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter is used, and it is said that this can be made to traverse a tree twenty inches in diameter in six minutes. The wire is worked to and fro rapidly by an electric motor and becomes so hot by friction that it burns its way quickly through the trunk. The wire will cut through the tree without the use of wedges to keep the cut open, and the cut may be made several feet up the tree, on the ground level, or even below the ground. The electricity may be brought to the forest from a distance by a cable; a gasoline motor of 10 horse power and a dynamo are all that is required to use this process. It is contended that the great trees, ten feet thick in the forest on the west coast, can thus be felled with ease.