

14.—Gale continued all night and we had a most uncomfortable time. A "camp is not pleasant at any time, but in a gale it is almost the worst place one could choose even for an enemy ; it was bitterly cold, and the camp fire so smoky that one was nearly blinded. When we arose this morning we were covered with about six inches of snow. The gale continued all day, and out on the plains we could not see one hundred yards : to travel was impossible and we could only sit and nurse our misery with as much patience as possible ; to read or to do anything else was out of the question ; to cut wood and keep up the fire was the only work:

15th.—The gale abated a little in the night, though it still continued to drift. The wind, however, was in our favour, so we decided to push on. Our way was across bare plains with no shelter ; it was bitterly cold, and as the dogs travelled very slowly, it was hard work to keep anything like warm. When night came on we turned into our hotel, a small bluff of woods, and made our bed in the snow.

16th (Sunday).—Having already lost one day in camp we were obliged to travel to-day, so after a short service we started. Wind went round to south, and a gale came on from that quarter, blowing right in our faces. We were crossing lakes and plains with hardly a tree to be seen, so pressed on until noon, when we got into thin woods, and made a fire, but to stay here for the night was impossible as we could not get sufficient wood to keep a fire. It was now drifting so hard that we could hardly see a dozen yards ahead ; our guide went on alone, and returned in about two hours, saying we could get a camp a few miles further on. We therefore faced it again, and after an hour's struggle got into fairly thick woods, where we made a camp and had a hearty little service.

17th.—Last night was mild (zero), and I got a good sleep, the first since leaving home. Started at 7 a. m. and soon after the wind changed again to north-west and another furious blizzard set in from that quarter—it seems as if we were to have nothing but gales ; but pressed on the whole day, though we never saw a quarter of a mile ahead, and at times could not see a dozen yards. Got a very poor camp with very little shelter.

18th.—Gale continued last night, and our camp was full of snow, making things most uncomfortable. Started about 8 a. m., and getting into thick woods we did not feel the wind so much, but travelling was bad, the snow was fully three feet deep, and at each step we sank above the knees ; dogs and sled were nearly buried. About 5 p.m. we came upon an Indian trail and were truly thankful, for the dogs would soon be done up with working through such heavy snow.

19th.—Made an early start, hoping to see some York Factory Indians ; crossed