

rest trees and shrubs had been burned for a considerable distance around; a few of the naked and sapless trunks, blackened and charred by the fire, were yet standing, but the greater portion, as they gradually decayed, had, from time to time, been thrown down by violent winds, and they lay across the *portage* in the wildest confusion and entanglement. We could perceive traces of an old path, but it had not, apparently, been used for many years, and was now so covered and choaked up with fallen timber, as to render it exceedingly laborious and fatiguing, and, in many places, almost impossible to get through, without the free use of the axe to clear the way. No description can do justice to the difficulty of passing through a piece of "burnt wood," where the trees have fallen and cover the ground with massive network; and encumbered as we were with our heavy packs, guns, rods, and spears, which it was frequently necessary to lay down, in order to use the axes, our progress was necessarily slow. To add to our discomfort, there was not a breath of air stirring, to temper the suffocating heat, or relieve us from the tormenting stings of the mosquitoes and black-flies, which assailed us in perfect clouds, covering our necks and temples with blood, and setting us half mad with the irritation arising from their incessant bites. The stifling heat, and motionless state of the atmosphere, were suddenly relieved by the rush and roar of one terrific blast of wind, which barely preceded the vivid flash of the forked lightning, and the loud and startling crash of the heavy thunder; the rain followed, not in drops, but in perfect sheets, as if a floodgate had just been opened, and the water allowed to pour down upon the parched and thirsty earth in one unbroken column.—We had been so long delayed in toiling and struggling among the "cross timber," that night fell ere we had effected one half the distance across the *portage*. Although wet to the skin with the first plump of the rain, and our packs greatly increased in weight by the water they had absorbed, we still struggled on to reach the shelter of the green-wood, which we expected to find on the banks of the Chempenpek, having had a distant view of it just before sunset. The night was intensely dark, and we should not have been able to proceed but for the vivid lightning, the flashes of which followed each other in such rapid succession as to light up the wild and dreary scene around us with one continued lurid glare, giving a most unearthly appearance to the dry and withered remains of the half-burnt and black-

ened trees, which were tossed together in every variety of form and position. Nothing could be more desolate or appalling than the appearance of that "burnt country," so utterly destitute of vegetation, and affording not the slightest shelter from the pelting of the storm; viewed, as we saw it, by the lightning's flash, amid a torrent of rain, the heavy thunder booming and crashing around us, and the wind sweeping over it in fitful gusts of the most violent character.

With the heavy loads which pressed upon us, it was no easy task to make our way through the fallen timber which obstructed our path: but, resolutely struggling on, our perseverance was at length rewarded: we reached the shelter of the green-wood, and the Indians quickly threw down their packs and prepared to encamp. Sabattis struck a light, and set fire to the pendulous bark of a grey birch tree, which, wet as it was, instantly blazed all along the trunk, even to the very top—a height of some thirty or forty feet. This enormous natural torch enabled us to select our ground; and then two salmon-spears being thrust into the ground with a gentle slope, a Macintosh cloak was stretched across them, at once giving shelter to ourselves and the stores. A roaring fire next gave a cheerful appearance to the spot, rousing our spirits with its genial glow, and the promise of comfort which it afforded. The Indians exerted themselves with great spirit and alacrity, and we soon had the satisfaction of finding ourselves under a dry camp, with a blazing fire in front, the prospect of a warm supper, and snug sleeping quarters, let the storm rage as it might. An almost incredibly short space of time sufficed to convert a dreary spot in the lonely wilderness into a habitation for man, and to vest it with many of the signs and tokens of active life and human enjoyment: and now that our toils for the night were over, we ate our supper, enjoyed our jokes, and sunk into deep sleep, lulled by the low rolling of the thunder, as it died away in the distance, and the soft patter of the rain which fell gently and steadily on our wigwam.

We slept long and soundly, nor did we rouse until the sun had attained considerable height, penetrating the thick wood in which we were encamped with his bright and cloudless beams, and displaying to great advantage the varied hues of the foilage around us, refreshed and heightened by the recent rain, which yet clung to it in crystal drops. The Indians had quietly departed before we were