

go up again. Over with 30 lbs. of ballast, and skyward we sailed. In about 20 minutes we again descended, but this time no friendly lights nor "deep-mouthed watchdogs' heavy bay" greeted us. We seemed to be over a dense wilderness, and the balloon was settling down just into a small lake. We had our life-preservers ready for use, but got up again by throwing out all our ballast except perhaps 20 pounds. LaMountain now declared it was folly to stay up any longer, that we were over a great wilderness, and the sooner we descended the better. We concluded to settle down by the side of some tall tree, tie up, and wait until morning. In a moment we were near the earth, and as we gently descended I grasped the extreme top of a high spruce, which stopped the balloon's momentum, and we were soon lashed to the tree by our large drag-rope.



After peering around and making as much of an examination of our surroundings as the darkness would permit, LaMountain said he feared his balloon was played out; that we were evidently far into the woods, and if we got out ourselves we ought to be very thankful. This prediction proved to be far nearer the truth than even the Professor supposed.

We rolled ourselves up in our blankets, patiently waiting for the morning. The cold rain spouted down upon us in rivulets from the great balloon that lazily rolled from side to side above our heads, and we were soon drenched and uncomfortable as men could be. After a night passed in great apprehension and unrest, we were right glad to see the first faint rays of coming light. Cold and rainy the morning at last broke, the typical precursor, we were to learn, of other dismal mornings to be spent in those uninhabited wilds. We waited until 6 o'clock, in hopes the rain would cease, and that the rays of the sun, by warming and thereby expanding the gas in the balloon, would give us ascending power sufficient to get up again, for the purpose (if no other) of obtaining a view of the country into which we had descended. The rain did not cease, and we concluded