

night; and it was determined to fell trees for the purpose, to serve as bridges.

The captain and doctor, and one or two other leaders of the camp, versed in woodcraft, examined, with learned eye, the trees growing on the river bank, until they singled out a couple of the largest size and most suitable inclinations. The ax was then vigorously applied to their roots, in such a way as to insure their falling directly across the stream. As they did not reach to the opposite bank, it was necessary for some of the men to swim across and fell trees on the other side, to meet them. They at length succeeded in making a precarious footway across the deep and rapid current, by which the baggage could be carried over; but it was necessary to grope our way, step by step, along the trunks and main branches of the trees, which for a part of the distance were completely submerged, so that we were to our waists in water. Most of the horses were then swum across, but some of them were too weak to brave the current, and evidently too much knocked up to bear any further travel. Twelve men, therefore, were left at the encampment to guard these horses, until, by repose and good pasturage, they should be sufficiently recovered to complete their journey; and the captain engaged to send the men a supply of flour and other necessaries as soon as we should arrive at the fort.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

A LOOKOUT FOR LAND—HARD TRAVELING AND HUNGRY
HALTING—A FRONTIER FARMHOUSE—ARRIVAL
AT THE GARRISON

It was a little after one o'clock when we again resumed our weary wayfaring. The residue of that day and the whole of the next were spent in toilsome travel. Part of the way was over stony hills, part across wide prairies, ren-