

the hill. This painful position rendered it impossible for me to lift one leg to endeavour to gain a footing above me, for I felt if I attempted to do so the other foot would slip off the ledge, and I must inevitably fall to the bottom.

The road at the foot of the hill, which ran along the bank of the river; was thronged with negroes going to market with fruit and wood from the mountains, and so soon as they observed my danger, they gathered together in great numbers, and began to shout to me. I could not understand what they said, but the sight of a host of black people all shouting in great excitement had such an effect upon me, as I gazed upon them from my ledge, that my knees began to tremble, my eyes became confused, and I felt that it would be a relief to plunge off right into the midst of them. I cannot describe this irresistible impulse, and as it grew stronger and more urgent upon me, I cast my eyes upward and felt some relief.

And here it may be well to remark, in passing, that in all positions of danger from being on a "giddy height," the danger is greatly increased whilst the eyes are turned downwards on the objects beneath us, and relief is gained by looking up to the sky.

In thus looking up, I saw, at about three feet above my head, the stump of an old tree, or probably a large shrub; it was sticking out about two feet from the bank, and was jagged at its extremity, as if it had been broken off. In my desperation, I resolved to make a spring at it; if I caught it with my right hand, and it was not too rotten to bear my weight, I knew I could draw my body up to it, and get my knee upon it; for if a sailor can get a "hand hold" he troubles himself little about his body; it may swing over an abyss miles in depth, and it gives him no concern, because, with his hands secure, he does as he pleases with his whole person. Then I rea-