

but even these may not occur until *after* the timber has been abandoned, and their effect may be over before it can again be reached. Additional force is required to bring out the timber—over and above those engaged in making it—and if this is not on the ground when the streams open the golden opportunity is lost; and if brought on too early the pork and tea must suffer. The price in Quebec increases in proportion to the quantity which “sticks” and is unable to reach the market. The consequence is there is very little sympathy among lumbermen, although necessity compels them often to “drive” together. It is the interest of each that all other timber but his own should be left behind. In “driving,” the greenhorns, as at a Court Martial, are first put forward; from sheer politeness, it is to be presumed, they are allowed to “put through” the booms first,—their timber consequently leads the van, it goes down, fills all the eddies, occupies all the shoals, and the next timber, belonging to the old birds, having no place to loiter in keeps the channel through, and though last to start comes out the first.

One of the disasters to which lumbermen are subjected in driving their timber, and one which induces them to go to great expense in forming a crib navigation where it can be obtained, is what is called a “jam.” [I suppose because it is made with currents and is very sticky.] When the “driving” cannot be controlled, or if the water falls unexpectedly, certain shoals begin to “pick up” the timber, and stick after stick as it comes down runs under those already grounded, and with the current for a power, acts as a lever in raising them above the water; in this manner the lifting and wedging continues until many thousand pieces of timber are woven into a crow’s nest, and raised perhaps thirty or forty feet above the water. The “jam” is frequently sustained by a single stick, resting against a ledge of rock, which when cut away will free the whole mass. “Cutting away a jam” is one of the most daring feats a lumberman can