

ridge. We could only follow its flight with regret that we had not induced our invalid friend, the sportsman, to have brought his gun thus far and to have given us the benefit of his steady aim. When we arrived at Torrance we found, as was usual, that there was no boat in sight, though then past the hour. So for two hours we waited in our small quarters, trying to exercise the necessary virtue of patience, but a keen wind was blowing and the evening fast closing in, so that by the time those long-delayed mail bags were handed in and sorted, we found to our dismay that it had become quite dark and wild-looking. How to get back to our boat was the next consideration, for none of us were quite sure of that trail through the wood by which we had come, and in this black darkness we felt afraid to venture beyond the limits of that friendly post-office. In our dilemma we appealed to two small boys who had come some distance for their letters, and who seemed much interested in watching the movements of us "city folks."

"Would they undertake to pilot us through the wood path?" we asked them somewhat tremulously. They grinned in a most aggravatingly unconcerned manner and informed us then that no one could see their way through the wood path at that late hour, but as they were going themselves back by the government road about two miles we might go along with them. Somewhat relieved, off we started, we three girls, linked arm in arm for protection, and our two very small guides in front, and that was a walk to be sure. Through inky darkness on we stumbled, rushing along, one moment trying to keep up with our most energetic escorts for fear of losing sight of them altogether, then stumbling up against some tree or bush, breathlessly trying to regain a footing on the uneven path, so afraid were we of being left alone for one instant, to be completely swallowed up in the surrounding weird darkness on every side. In order to keep those small boys near us, we had to resort to holding on to their very attenuated coat-tails; somewhat difficult work for one of us even, at the rate at which they would fain have taken us along. Needless to say those sturdy youths enjoyed the situation much more than we did, and did not seem to mind wind and cold and such discomforts, but we three mentally resolved that on our next