

I might seek in vain to paint the sentiment by which I was possessed.

Many years have passed since this terrible adventure, a great number of events have grown up, of which my heart keeps the remembrance, but nothing can resemble what I felt at this moment.

Joy overflowed my heart at the sight of my sister in safety. I looked at myself at the same time as a frightful criminal, I, who had doubted the power and goodness of God.

I did not dare to speak to Aninia, her confidence in God had not failed; she addressed Him now in a firm voice, with a prayer of thanksgiving.

The noise of the wolves attacking the well closed door, stopped these reflections at last. I gathered up my ideas and sought to unite my prayer to that of my sister: I succeeded at last, and I hoped that God would pardon my want of confidence, my weakness of faith.

When Kosko had driven off the horses, he had had the presence of mind to draw out the lighted lantern from the sleigh and to bring it into the hospitable cabin.

During the howling of the wolves, whilst they jumped at the door and tried to break in at the window, defended by strong shutters, we examined the interior of the cabin and the objects by which we were surrounded.

We found only naked clay walls—a stone bench extending the length of the walls; in one corner, we found some half rotten straw, but beside it we found an estimable treasure, a quantity of wood, sufficient to secure us for twenty-four hours, against a frozen temperature.

The old domestic did not lose a moment in using it, and soon a welcome blaze shone through our cabin. The smoke mounted to the ceiling and lost itself in one of those openings in the roof that are usually to be found in a hunter's cabin.

I breathed more freely now, and looked with more tranquility on my beloved sister, who was seated on the bench, occupied in restoring the lady's maid whom Kosko had laid there.

Some drops of spirits given to her, made the woman open her eyes; then we re-assembled around the fire, whose vivifying heat produced on us all a good effect though still, during the howling of our terrible enemies, we felicitated ourselves on our escape.

The lady's maid delivered from her paralysis of fear, began to relate with volubility all she had suffered; she had seen all, heard everything, although in a dead faint.

I took hold of Aninia's hand, our looks met, and without needing to exchange a word, they expressed the sweet emotions of our unhopd-for deliverance.

Old Kosko, alone, seemed insensible of the favour that heaven had bes-