

ing time in idle inquiry, the young men were no sooner made acquainted with Arthur's situation than they applied themselves to the work of his deliverance. This, however, proved no easy task, the rock resisting their united efforts to dislodge it.

"What will father think has become of us?" said Edward, at the end of half an hour of fruitless labour, as if remembering for the first time that his parent had been kept in suspense much longer than was necessary. "Hurry down and ask him to come up here; and, by the way, now I think of it, he has a rope with him that may be of use to us."

Edgerton darted away with the speed of an arrow, and in a very few minutes returned with Captain Thornton, who, having become alarmed at the long absence of the young men, was making his way up the hill when Philip met him.

They now cut down a sapling spruce tree of sufficient strength to sustain their united weight; and having made of it a beam of about twenty feet in length, they tied the rope to one end, and inserted the other between the fallen rock and the face of the cliff. Then taking hold of the rope, they commenced a strain on the powerful lever.

Arthur felt that upon this effort depended his chances of release—at least until more help could be obtained. What was his joy, therefore, when, after a little, he observed the opening over his head enlarging slowly, until, having lost its equipoise, the dismembered rock fell suddenly forward, leaving him once more free!

With a heart overflowing with gratitude for his providential deliverance from a cruel death, Arthur uttered his fervent thanks to heaven, and then proceeded to make his acknowledgments to the strangers for the service which had just been rendered to him, with a warmth of expression that bespoke a kind and generous nature.

"Say no more," said Edward, interrupting him; "we have done no more than any one not lost to all the feelings of humanity, would have done under similar circumstances. We are but too happy in having been the instrument of saving a fellow being

from distress, perhaps from death. You have rather to thank the strange and harrowing circumstances that have called us hither, than any merit on our part, for your present freedom."

"May I ask, then, what strange fortune has brought you here. Your presence seems to me little less than a miracle. That you are strangers in the country, of course I cannot but know, seeing that there are so few white people in it; but how you got here, or what chance led you into this wild, has been a puzzling question to my mind from the moment I first heard your voices."

In answer to this interrogatory, Edward related to his wondering auditor the incidents recorded in the second chapter of this history.

Arthur listened with sympathetic interest; and when the narrative was concluded, offered his services to his benefactors in such a manner as carried the assurance with it that he would brook no denial. "There seems no more appropriate or acceptable return that I can make," he said, "for the obligation under which you have placed me, than to labour for the restoration of your daughter. Providence seems to have sent you here to save my life. Who knows but that I may be instrumental in saving her from a worse fate than that to which I was so lately exposed? The life you have saved will be given if need be, to save one more precious."

"Your kind words encourage us no less than your generous offer. Strangers as we are to the country, and weak in point of numbers, we cannot but regard you as a most valuable accession to our party."

"That's settled, then, and now let's attend to the wants of the inner man; for I must plead guilty to a somewhat wolfish propensity, after so long a fast. I feel weak withal, as you may suppose, but I trust that a good supper and a night's rest will make all right again."

"Shall we pitch our tent here?"

"I do not lay claim to remarkable sagacity, but I am too old a fox to be caught twice in the same trap. No, no, we had better move off a little further from the cliff. And now, let me gather my traps if so be they are