

circumstance not a little enhanced by a scantiness of provision, and a continued round of fatiguing duty that scarcely left us an hour of the twenty-four unemployed or unmolested. Being in the immediate vicinity of an enemy's territory, the utmost alertness and precaution were necessarily observable, the effects of which were sufficiently distressing to both officers and men in the nightly dispersion of advance picquets; and the double task of cutting and laying a road for the transport of artillery and other munitions of war through the almost impenetrable thickets of a cedar swamp, and felling and preparing the materials for our wooden defences,—all which gave the continuance of daylight an impressive character of its own which may be easily imagined.

This intermixture of diurnal and nocturnal harassing employ had continued for a time, and numerous repinings were beginning to be murmured by not a few of us, agreeably diversified by divers ejaculatory epithets on the tardy negligence of those in charge of the provision waggon—or a categorical elucidation of the miseries attendant on the combination of hard-work with short allowance, when the interest and attention of us all were strongly excited and partially turned into a different channel, and caused the cravings of appetite and bodily exhaustion to become but a secondary consideration. The object of this it is now my task to explain; as it is the subject which I am about to treat, or am professedly treating.

Our encampment,—which was a happy assemblage of branch huts and bark wigwams—the latter the domiciliary erections of our red brethren—was formed in the area made by the sudden extension at its point of termination on reaching the river, of a small defile or glen, that con-