

his high heeled boots sticking in the snow, stopped his farther progress. I was not so fortunate, for having flat-soled shoes on, down I slipped, rifle and all, with the rapidity of lightning. After a descent of fifty feet, I passed the Cooley, in the act of crossing with my gun, and gave him a deadly clutch of despair, in the hope of saving myself; but I only brought the poor fellow down with me, who uttered shrieks of fear and woe; being heavier than he was, I soon out-distanced him, and went, increasing in velocity every instant, at an angle of thirty degrees, till, after a descent of upwards of two hundred feet, the snow being soft brought us both up; happily indeed, for one hundred feet more would have precipitated us into the torrent below. I was in bodily terror the whole time, lest the Cooley should accidentally have discharged the contents of the gun into me. My guns were filled with snow; thus there was every chance of the loading being quite damaged. II. did not observe my accident, but had gone into the wood after the bear, thinking I was behind him. This was very disheartening. After accomplishing a most tedious ascent, I had it to make all over again. II. was out of sight—my guns being wet, I had no confidence in either of them—I knew that if he came across the bear, and wounded him, and sent him in my direction, my situation would not be a pleasant one. I half determined to recross the river, and take my chance of the sport from the opposite ridge; but then I reflected that my companion would be alone, or at least with only natives, who would have run away on the least approach of real danger, so I trudged up again, the best way I could, into the wood, where, to my no small satisfaction, I found II. waiting for me. A few words explained what had happened, and after a hearty laugh, we continued our search, and presently discovered the object of it rolling about with great apparent ease, under a tree one hundred yards ahead of us. We proceeded by stealth till within fifty yards of him, and crouched down behind a piece of rock; as I had the rifle, upon which much depended, II. requested me to take the first shot, but, as I expected, it missed fire. I tried it again, but without effect, and laid it aside with mortification, keeping my gun as a reserve, in case the bear should charge upon us. They usually come within ten paces of you, then raise their bulky carcass on their hind-legs, preparatory to giving you an embrace. If your gun is all right, and your nerves are good, you have nothing to fear; wait till he comes within three feet of the muzzle, fire at the horse shoe on his breast, and he is sure to roll over; if your gun misses fire, throw it down, and bolt like the wind. II. was

more fortunate than I, for he struck the brute in the side, which, with a hideous yell, half scrambled, half tumbled down the hill; we followed at once; I took my gun, leaving the useless rifle to the care of the Cooley; we descended the hill in such a manner as only our extreme excitement would have permitted; regardless of pain, I grasped when falling, the thorny bushes with my naked hand. The snow had made my shoes so slippery, that I bruised my ankles terribly against the sharp stones; but this I did not mind till afterwards. We soon discovered poor Bruin, who had reached the water's edge, and was endeavoring to climb over the rocks. Seeing this, I turned off to the left, to give him a salute, *en passant*; but the poor brute could not accomplish his end, so I arrived just in time to see both barrels of H.'s gun take effect, and the huge monster roll passively into the water, which became instantly crimsoned with his blood; he was carried down some short distance by the rapidity of the current, and after passing under a long tunnel formed by the snow, got jammed against a rock, from whence, with some difficulty we dragged him out. He was an enormous size, evidently full grown; several wounds and festers about the ears showed that he had been lately fighting with one of his own species. We left him, covered with stones, to protect him from the jaws of any animal prowling in the vicinity, not having sufficient men to carry him.

We found it dreadfully fatiguing to regain the road. Seetee is nearly twelve thousand feet above the level of the sea, so you may imagine, when it rained, how dreadfully cold we found it; the snow lay in many places thickly on the ground, a short distance from our tent, where, on our arrival, we enjoyed a nice hot breakfast. Previous to reaching this, we had to cross a torrent, supplied by a superb cataract some distance above, rushing from the snow. The water itself was like ice, so our feet were perfectly benumbed. We enjoyed a splendid prospect from thence, but the clouds descend so low that much of it was lost; still we occasionally caught glimpses of the lofty and prodigious peaks of snow that seemed to separate "the world from the regions of space." The mind experienced a thrilling sensation of awe while contemplating these vast and stupendous works of our Creator, that neither the ravages of time nor seasons have been able to remove. Though the thunders roll, and the lightnings flash, threatening destruction to all around, still they remain, generation after generation, unchanged in their position as if all were calm and serene. It was a picturesque sight, watching our long line of Coolies toiling up the mountain, with here and there some soli-