

## CHAPTER II.

ARRIVAL AT DARLINGTON.—KIND RECEPTION.—MY FRIEND'S LOCATION.—HIS INEXPERIENCE.—DAMAGE TO HIS LAND BY FIRE.—GREAT CONFLAGRATION AT MIRAMACHI.—FOREST FIRES.—MIGHTY CONFLAGRATION OF THE 6TH OF OCTOBER.—AFFECTING STORY OF A LUMBER-FOREMAN.—HIS PRESENCE OF MIND, AND WONDERFUL PRESERVATION.—THE SAD FATE OF HIS COMPANIONS.

I WAS now very near to my ark of refuge, and the buoyant spirit of early youth, with its joyous anticipations of a radiant future, bore me exultingly forward. It might have been said of me in the beautiful lines of the poet :—

“He left his home with a bounding heart,  
For the world was all before him ;  
And he scarcely felt it a pain to part,  
Such sun-bright hopes came o'er him.”\*

Two hours' brisk walking brought me to the long-looked-for end of my journey. I was received with the greatest kindness and hospitality; and, in a few days, felt quite at home and comfortable in my new quarters.

\* Alaric A. Watts.