

the echo of my own voice ; but not deceived altogether for it had led me to shelter.

"To get well within the forest was my first thought, and when I did so, to my extreme delight, I found a great many dead trees, and saw that the trunks of the living ones were shaggy with moss. To break off some of the dry boughs, whittle a few shavings, and with the help of the moss, and the matches, of which I had a good supply, to make a fire was my next step, and, tired though I was, the excitement restored my strength and courage. The sight of a fire, next to that of a human face, is the most gratifying thing imaginable when one is lost, and having cut a few green boughs to serve as a resting place, I knelt before the blaze, regardless of the snow falling around me.

"It required very little consideration to show me that my troubles were by no means over, though they did appear to vanish when the first flickering blaze arose from the moss. There was no use in my thinking of starting out on another tramp while the storm continued, I must prepare a shelter of some kind, for it would be

for it and has the means of killing game ; but one, who like myself, had nothing in the way of hunting gear except a jack knife, a fishing line and a few pieces of rabbit wire, might starve to death for all that. There was the edible lichen, called by the Half-breeds "Tripe de la roche," but it was hopeless to look for this under four feet of snow if it grew in the neighborhood, of which there was no indication. When I had about abandoned all hope of being able to find anything I remembered that Joe had told me only the day before that the inner bark of the poplar would do for food, if you could get nothing else. There was every reason to suppose that poplar would be found higher on the ridge, and slipping my feet in my snow shoes I set out on the search.

"A half hour's tramp brought me to where there were poplars in abundance. Having cut out some of the pulpy inner bark and warmed it over my fire, I essayed to eat it ; but found it very unsatisfactory ; I was not altogether discouraged for on coming back from the poplar grove I had noticed the track of hares, and, without further delay, went out and set my snares. By



A CHANCE TO HOOK A FISH OR TWO.

next to impossible to keep awake, and to fall asleep before the fire with the snow falling meant never to open my eyes again. With my snowshoes I dug a hole in the snow, which was fully four feet deep, and in one end of it heaped up a few boughs, making a sort of roof over them with sticks and boughs. In the other end of the hole I built a small fire, and having crawled down into my rude camp, was soon so comfortable that I fell asleep. Fortunately the weather was not very cold, and on my awakening after a couple of hours, though the fire had gone out and my limbs were very stiff, I was able to get a blaze going again. But with returning warmth came hunger, I had had nothing to eat since noon the day before, and had had exercise enough to give me an appetite. The most minute search of my pockets revealed nothing edible : nor was there a living creature in sight. Then I went to the edge of the forest and tried to penetrate with my gaze the dense cloud of snow, but it was like looking out into a fog, and discouraged I went back to the fire.

"What should I do for something to eat? This was the all-absorbing question. Our northern forests furnish considerable variety, if one knows where to look

nightfall one hare had rewarded my skill as a trapper, and one of its legs broiled made what seemed the sweetest meal I had ever tasted.

"As the snow continued to fall there was no use in thinking about leaving my camp, and so I devoted the rest of the afternoon to collecting dry wood for the fire and boughs to complete my shelter. The result of my labors was a place of refuge not to be despised, and my night's rest was as good as could be desired. Next morning I found a second hare in one of my snares, and when towards afternoon the snow began to cease falling, the outlook appeared quite bright. The storm ceased altogether at sunset : but the clouds continued heavy, so that not a star was to be seen. Nor had they cleared away when daylight came again, nevertheless the air was clear and I was able to make out what my surroundings were like.

"The place to which my steps had led me in the storm was near one extremity of a forest-bordered lake, apparently ten or twelve miles long and five or six miles wide, and the conclusion naturally suggested itself that my wanderings had not taken me far from the point where I had lost sight of Joe, and that the expanse be-