

course, and this three or four times ; but as can be readily seen, only served to render my situation the more puzzling. At length I found myself in a densely-wooded ravine. I now perceived the necessity of gaining the summit of some high hill in order to command a view of the country round and, by this means, discover the position of the camp. The nearest hill was a steep declivity rising to the height of fifty or sixty feet, with scarcely a shrub on its rocky side on which a climber might find support. I attempted to climb it but soon gave up the task, after being within a hair's breadth of tumbling headlong upon the jagged rocks below. I made an attempt to cross the valley with a like success. At the first step I sank to my hips in the accumulated debris and was only too glad to regain my former position. At the cost of much labor, I then skirted the foot of the overhanging cliff until I reached a hill that could be climbed. Here again I was doomed to disappointment. The thick growth of trees at the summit of the hill shut out the distant view.

After much marching and countermarching, I was rewarded by the glimpse of a distant lake through the trees. This was perhaps Green Lake. You may be sure the rugged nature of the intervening country did not keep me long away from its side. Alas ! for my anxious hopes, I could not recognize the lake even after I had almost encircled its shore. Green Lake it could not be. I climbed the rocky mountain by its side to make observations in the opposite direction. As there was nothing visible to give me hope, but everything tending to discouragement, I sat down, compelled to admit that I was lost and alone in those forsaken wilds.

The afternoon was marked by a series of disappointments, that rendered my desolation complete. Nor did the cheerless nature of my surroundings tend to lessen the sense of utter loneliness. The deep silence was unbroken save by my own footsteps among the dry leaves and twigs. The woods seemed deserted. Not a bird or a squirrel was heard among the trees. Here, in this valley appeared the tracks of the deer that had passed long ago ; and here, in the side of this hill, the deserted home of a bear, which, though deserted, caused me to retreat from that neighborhood in a rather precipitous manner.