

while the tears ran down their cheeks; but I do not remember to have seen a description of the feelings of the man who unwittingly partook of a glass of over-proof Canadian high wines. I will merely say that at first I thought the brute had rammed a red-hot poker down my throat; but there being no poker in the building, that idea was dismissed. The Japanese trick of swallowing a sword I then suspected had been played upon me; but as the effects of the vile stuff taken increased, I was positive he had poured nitro-glycerine down my throat, and that I was about to explode. Our party were all in this state of frenzy, while the two farmers were again helping themselves to another dose of the poison, when another rap came to the door, and a loud cry of "*Laissez nous entrer*" prepared us for another invasion. Companions in misery, of course; this time, three individuals. The previous passages of our *berlins* had rendered the road to the house less difficult, and we shortly had the new-comers with their horse properly housed, and the *berlin* placed alongside the others. We were at first not curious to find out who formed the accession to the party; but observing that one was tightly bound, so as to prevent the use of his arms, we were informed that he was a lunatic from a distant parish on his way to the Beauport Asylum. The French *habitants* were cold and benumbed, and freely partook of the "over-proof," and we were horrified to see that his guardians allowed the lunatic to indulge his taste as freely as themselves. The wind was increasing, but the snow no longer came in by the shutters, as they were covered by the drifts. All chance of leaving such a place could not be thought of, and we resumed the places near the fire which we occupied before the arrival of the countrymen. One Irishman, lying on the floor, was droning away at one of those interminable ballads so much in vogue among them, while the other was assuring him of his protection under any circumstances. The lunatic, leaning against the wall, was yelling at the top of his voice, and using all the oaths of which the French language is capable, while his two guardians were enjoying themselves, one in a sort of jig or breakdown, and the other in attempting to hum a tune in time. This was certainly Pandemonium on earth, and I thought the night would never come to an end; but sleep, if not balmy, at last, induced by the fumes of the high wines and tobacco, came to our relief, and gradually the infernal noise of the five men faded away to give place to fitful and harassing dreams. Starts, as from an electric battery, continually woke me to the sense of our position; a racking headache and parched throat, both the effect of the liquor, almost drove me crazy. I was in this unenviable state when, towards morning, I managed to procure some refreshing sleep, from which I was awakened by three rapid discharges of firearms. I jumped to my feet, and saw the madman, who had obtained possession of Williams' revolver, and already had discharged three barrels, endeavoring to fire at one of the Irishmen; but his arms being tied, he was unable to take proper aim. Instantly all was confusion; all the party had evidently fallen asleep, and been awakened by the pistol shots. He was instantly seized and dispossessed of the pistol, and bound both hands and feet, the poor wretch struggling violently the whole time, and uttering the most frightful imprecations. Further sleep was now impossible, and a little fresh air seemed to be desired by all. What with the house being completely buried in the snow; the exhalations of the nine men, the effluvia from the four horses, and the fumes of bad tobacco and whiskey, the closeness was unbearable. Opening the door was impracticable, as once open it would be almost impossible to close it from the large quantity of snow against it. The only remedy was to make an opening in the roof, and this was effected without loss of time. Rubbing our faces and hands in the cold bright snow that morning eclipsed the delights of the Turkish bath. The cool application to our splitting heads at once afforded relief, and the refreshing breeze caused a thrill of enjoyment. The storm had ceased, and the sun shone out bright and clear; but on what a picture! The very trees were all but covered, and nothing but their tops could be seen; no sign of a road appeared,