

together my two hands near my mouth so as to answer the more loudly, and I trumpeted forth the most lusty cry for help. This did not bring help, but brought relief, for the cowardly beasts ceased instantly their yells and fled. I could not help laughing at this unexpected turn of affairs, and patting myself on the back, I quoted: "*Ye suis donc un foudre de guerre!*" "Am I, then, such a thundering warrior!" But besides wolves there are other denizens of the forest, and it was quite possible that before the end of the night I heard the yell of a panther, which I could hardly hope to silence by my whoop and cry. My only hope, then, would be to keep a good bright fire blazing, and as my wood was already giving out, I shook myself, and went about as far as I dared in the circle of light made by the fire, in quest of more fuel. I had already picked all that was on the ground, so there remained no help to it but to jump and catch at the lower branches of the trees and break them. Some were easy to break, others would bend but not break, and I had to throw all my strength and perform the wildest feats of gymnastique to break and tear them away. At one time one of those branches broke suddenly, and sent me sprawling on the ground. I tell you I had plenty of exercise for half an hour, and I could not so soon after go to sleep. Now the weariness of my sitting posture and the craving for stretching one's limbs came on me and I had to lay myself down on the bare ground, was it but for a quarter of an hour. Fortunately no more incidents happened till morning dawned. From time to time I would look at my watch, and it was quite a company to me and a pleasure to hear its loud ticking in the silence of the night. It was a blessing also that towards one or two in the morning the sky clouded up, the stars disappeared completely, and I

was spared the trial of being drenched during four or five hours with the morning dew, so heavy in that region. It would have been, indeed, a very serious affair for me, scantily attired as I was and exhausted by fatigue and fast. It would have certainly brought on a fever, and I needed no such addition to the sum of my woes.

At seven in the morning breakfast none, a fervent prayer to God, and a serious deliberation what ought to be done next. I could not tell where my mission was, either east, west, north, or south; most likely I had turned around it, and although I was not perhaps at a greater distance than four or five miles, I could not hope to find it; but the Agency was certainly northeast of me, for, being at a distance of seventeen miles, I could not have turned around it, so I concluded I would make a bee-line for the Agency as far as the nature of the ground would allow me, and as fast as my tired limbs would carry me. I took my direction by the sun, which now came brightly from behind a cloud.

It was a weary work, this second day's tramping through woods and dales and creeks and hills and valleys. Hunger was gnawing at my vitals, and there was no wild fruit to be found. I tried to kill a bird with a stone, but failed for want of skill and of strength. I tried to eat dry leaves and grass; that food would not go down my throat. About 10 o'clock I found some acorns eaten up by worms. Still I tried to eat what little parts were left sound. O the bitterness of this fruit! I had to give up trying, and yet I filled my pockets with those acorns, thinking the hour might come when I would have to eat them or die. I laid myself in the high grass there and slept till about noon, and felt a good deal better for having been able to stretch myself at full length under the warming rays of the sun. Then I said one rosary and resumed my jour-