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SOUTH WOODWARD AT FRANK STREET

PLUNGE OVER FALLS IN BARREL BROUGHT WOMAN LITTLE REWARD

By HUGO ERICHSEN, M. D.

A supreme effort of will I calmed myself at once and began earnestly to pray—if it was God's will to spare my life; if not, to give me an easy death.

"The trip through the rapids was nothing but a pleasant sensation. I could feel the barrel nosing and often turn partly over, and I dropped over a reef, when the bottom caught for a moment. The barrel swerved and I thought I would go head first, but with a jerk it loosened itself, turned foot down, and plunged to the bottom. I felt the water close over my head but was not hurt. The barrel rose to the surface instantly and pursued its course toward the mighty cataract. Again the barrel swerved to the left and I knew instinctively that should it continue this course it would be dashed to atoms on the giant rocks near the Canadian shore. But the barrel paused, raised slowly on its head, then turned over on a rock and pursued its course down to the brink of the precipice. I placed the cushion from my head, tore it

quickly under my knees, and dropped to the bottom of the barrel.

"As I reached the brink the barrel did what I predicted it would do, paused for a moment and then made the awful plunge of 158 feet to the boiling cauldron below. I thought for a moment my senses were lost. The feeling was one of absolute horror, but still I knew when I struck the water of the river below. The shock was not so great, but I went down, down, until the momentum had spent itself. Under the surface all was still; not a sound reached me. Slowly I rose, but unfortunately on returning to the surface came under the falling water and was carried back of the sheet that descends from the precipice. It was then I began to suffer. The barrel was whirled like a dasher in a churn; lifted, I should think, four or five feet clear of the water, and thrown violently about. At the same time it was turned around and around with great velocity and came repeatedly in contact with the rocks. With every movement, more water was forcing itself in at a point of the bottom where the axvil had been put in imperfectly. And, as the barrel spun around, the sensation was terrible.

"But suddenly the barrel shot out from the cataract like an arrow from a bow, giving me a frightful lurch. After a short time I felt how the barrel was being drawn upon a rock. It was none too soon, for my strength was spent. When I realized that I had been rescued I fainted. The barrel was opened by means of a wrench. As soon as the fresh air struck me, my senses returned.

"A man's voice exclaimed: 'The woman is alive!'

"I answered: 'Yes, she is, though much hurt and confused. I was carried to my boarding

house and, after much suffering and great pain, restored to my normal condition.

"Now," she concluded sadly, "I am selling these souvenirs in order to obtain enough money to regain possession of my barrel, which is still in the hands of my former agent. As soon as this is accomplished I propose to go to England and exhibit myself at London. I expected to realize a large sum of money by placing myself on exhibition in the leading cities of this country, but in that respect I have been disappointed."

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