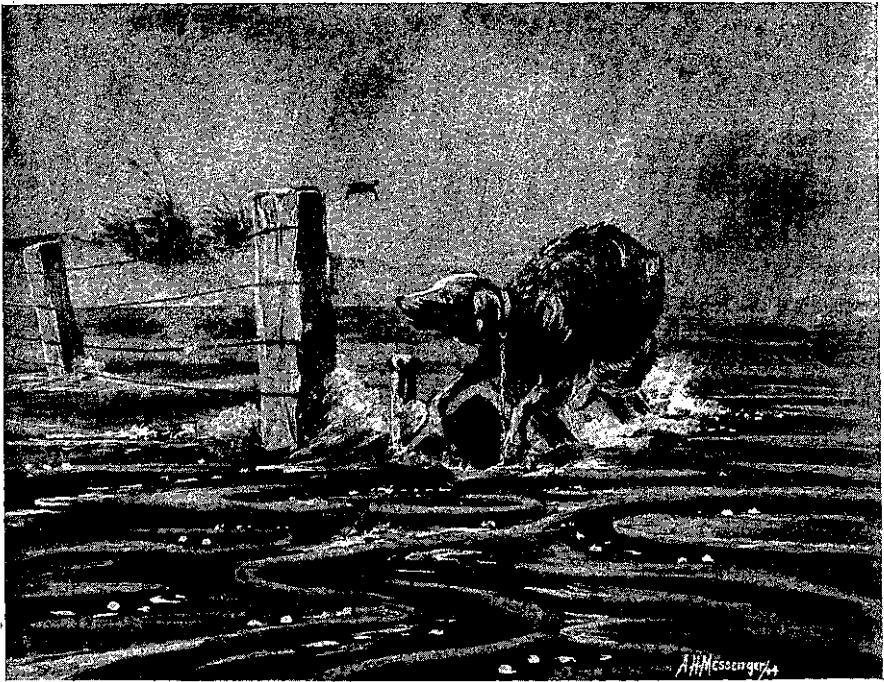


could not at first conceive, for it was not an article anyone was likely to steal, but I was not long in finding out. It stood on a high part of the heaps of gravel and boulders which the river had at some previous time thrown up. A sudden melting of the snow in the ranges by a hot nor'-wester followed by a fortnight's incessant rain, caused one of those 'highest floods in the memory of man,' which occur, I have noticed, once in every two or three years at the outside. I had to

tongue swollen with thirst, though when I was there I would have given worlds to get away ! We are never satisfied with our lot, but is it any wonder ? Can mine be deemed satisfying by any stretch of the imagination ?"

"But surely they might give you water enough to secure you a drink every day ?"

"Well, it is not always their fault, though it generally is. It has often happened just as the man has filled my tin and departed, before I



"I had to jump on top of my kennel and remain there for nearly three weeks."

jump on top of my kennel and remain there for nearly three weeks, sometimes sitting, sometimes standing, but always shivering, in the six inches, more or less, of melted snow water which covered it. They never troubled to come and feed me, for they took it for granted I was drowned ; but if I had nothing to eat, I had plenty to drink, and that's more than I have here. I have often wished since that I was back on that old kennel again, when my mouth has been parched and my

could get half a drink, some thirsty swaggers rushed up, took a drink, then filled their billies with what remained, leaving me none for the next few days. You see there's no water for miles on either side, and these hot summer days the men get as thirsty as I do."

"Drink out of a dog tin ?" I exclaimed with a shudder.

"Yes ; and, notwithstanding your shudder, so would you, if you'd tramped for miles in a hot sun with your tongue out, and a heavy swag