

during this operation his features struggled between joy and severity. That cadaverous face, lighted up with those gems, had something about it more horrible than I can describe. The countess seemed to apprehend all the danger of the precipice towards which she was approaching: there was still some feeling of remorse within her; and it only required, perhaps, an effort—a charitable hand extended to save her. I determined to attempt it. Gosbeck interrupted me by a sign of the head; and, turning towards the culprits, 'Eighty thousand francs in ready money,' said he, with a low soft voice, 'and you will leave me the diamonds.' 'But—,' replied the young man. 'Take it or leave it,' said Gosbeck, giving back the casket to the countess. I again drew near her, and whispered, 'You will do better, madam, to throw yourself at the feet of your husband.' The usurer, doubtless understood my words by the movement of my lips, and cast me a look in which there was something infernal. The face of the young man became livid, for the hesitation of the countess was palpable. He approached her, and though he spoke low, I heard the words 'Adieu, Emily!—be happy! As for me, tomorrow I shall no longer have a care.' 'Oh, sir!' she cried, addressing herself to Gosbeck, 'I accept your offer!' The usurer gave the money, and the countess rose and retired, deeply feeling into what a labyrinth of shame and guiltiness she had allowed herself to be drawn.

FROM FRIENDSHIP'S OFFERING.

THE FIRST SETTLERS ON THE OHIO.

BY JOHN GALT.

THE wars between the first settlers and the Indians of North America, resembled in ferocity those ancient feuds so celebrated in the early minstrelsy of Europe; fierce and cruel, they may be described as the fermentation arising from the accidental mingling of the elements of future nations.

The settlers, compared with their savage adversaries of the forest, were a tame, domestic race, and in their habits were changed from the warlike practices of their feudal ancestors in the old country; but the courage and fortitude with which they resisted the undaunted aborigines, showed how little in fact the children of civilization differ in nature from their brothers of the wood, even in those qualities of bravery and heroism which are supposed to constitute the only virtues of the Indians, and of which man is supposed to be disarmed as he improves his condition.

A few days after the festival of the New-Year had been celebrated at Waller, now a considerable town in the state of Ohio, a number of young men began to assemble at break of day in front of the only tavern in the village, for the purpose of proceeding about fifteen miles through the forest to assist in bringing on the supplies which had been retarded on the road by the open weather. The season had been unusually mild, and the snow having thawed in several places, the sleighing was often interrupted, and provisions in consequence were becoming scarce in the settlement.

As the sun rose, some of the older inhabitants thought that the lowering aspect of the skies prognosticated a storm. The young men, however, disregarded their bodings, for they were intent not only to perform a public duty, but to enjoy a frolic; they were, however, induced, by the exhortations of their friends, to take their blankets and axes, lest they should be benighted. Being thus equipped they set forth in high spirits, and about noon arrived where the teams with the supplies awaited assistance.

Hitherto, the storm had only threatened; the mist hung in flakes among the topmost branches of the trees; and the travellers careless of the signs, prolonged their stay at the rendezvous more than prudence would otherwise have warranted. It was long past mid-day before they thought of returning home; at last they resumed their way, each lessening the waggon loads by taking a package on his back.

They had advanced some distance without observing any material change in the weather; but soon after, the woods became more gloomy, giving them reason to apprehend that the fears of their friends in the morning had not been groundless; but still they entertained hopes of being able to reach Waller before the storm would burst.

Presently small flakes of snow began to fall, which, as the wind blew sharply in their faces, were exceedingly annoying; these, together with the blast, increased until the travellers were frequently obliged to turn their backs to avoid the cruel gusts which swept fiercer and fiercer past them.

When the party were about half way, and the twilight began to darken, some of them proposed that they should begin to erect their shanty or shed; but it was not till several complained of fatigue, and it became evident that Waller could not be reached without hazard, that this advice was listened to. To separate, was dangerous, for the surrounding forest was infested with wolves, which frequently howled around them, and two were seen crossing their track a short distance in front, and which turned and looked back, uttering a long and melancholy cry, as if grieved to see the band of travellers so numerous.

The snowy wind was still rising, and no fit place for their shanty could be discovered, when one of the party looking round, said that, having been out hunting,

in the preceding fall, he had observed a situation well adapted for the purpose; and which he was sure could not be far off. Under his guidance, they left the supplies, and went a little way into another part of the forest.

While they had been thus consulting, the howling of the wolves had ceased towards the left hand, but was louder and more frequent in the other direction; and, as the settlers were hastening forward, they were startled by the report of a gun. Nothing afraid on their own account, they pushed on to see if they could assist its possessor, who, they concluded, was, at that advanced hour of the evening, most likely in great danger. In the course of a few minutes they perceived a man with his back against a tree defending himself with the butt end of his gun, against several wolves which were furiously attacking him.

The animals, on the approach of the adventurers, immediately fled; for the American wolves are naturally timid, and never attack man except when pressed by hunger.

The stranger whom they had thus relieved from jeopardy expressed his gratitude for their timely assistance; and the leader of the party heartily invited him to accompany them, for the night was darkening fast. Soon after, they arrived at a spot where the trees appeared to form an amphitheatre. Here they cleared a space sufficient for their accommodation, and proceeded to remove the snow; and, having felled several saplings that grew near, they sharpened their ends, and fastened them at equal distances between the trees; filling up the space with boughs and branches, with which they also covered the roof. They then kindled a fire, and prepared to pass the night as comfortably as possible, though the tempest was roaring in the forest with a noise like the falls of Niagara. It was at this time, as they were sitting on the ground round the fire, that the stranger, on being solicited, thus began to relate his adventures.

"I am the son," said he "of George May, one of the first settlers who emigrated into this part of the country. Having penetrated farther west than had previously been done, he fixed his location in the vast and lonely district of Carew, a little east of the Ohio, nearly opposite to where the fierce tribe of the Shawnee Taws have a village, but of whom little fears were entertained as that wide, and deep river flowed between. We sometimes had, however, skirmishes with hunting parties who crossed the Ohio, but whom we always defeated as they had no fire arms. Thus several years passed on, and the woods around were gradually becoming cleared and peopled, but not to such a degree as to restrain our savage neighbours from making incursions which retarded the progress of the settlement.

"My mother had been dead several years, having left my father without any one to assist him in bringing up my elder brother and myself, who were then very young. Perhaps it is to that cause, I should ascribe our wild and woodland habits: for, even when mere children, we often wandered heedless into the forest, and acquired familiarity with the boldest creatures that range in unmolested liberty amidst its unfrequented and solitary labyrinths.

"One day, after we had nearly reached manhood, my brother, who had been out hunting, returned in the evening with a wounded settler, belonging to a farm—the nearest—about twelve miles off; and when he had dressed his wounds, and given him some refreshment, he requested to see our father.

"I asked your sons," said he to the old man, 'to bring you to me,—for I grow faint, and I fear my life is fast ebbing—in order to warn you of your danger. The Indians yesterday, made an attack in great numbers, on our settlement, and after much resistance, succeeded in overpowering us: what has become of my friends I know not, for on these savages rushing into the house, I received a blow on the head which sent me stunned among the bushes; where I lay sometime senseless, and on recovering, saw only smoking ashes where our dwelling had been. Maimed and helpless, as you see, I then endeavoured to crawl here, shuddering with apprehension lest our remorseless enemies might be with you before me.'

"What numbers do the Indians amount to?"

"Between thirty and forty."

"There are only eight men," said my father, looking anxiously, 'in this settlement, besides these two lads and myself. But still, we must prepare to defend ourselves.'

"So saying, the old man left us, to give the necessary directions, which when we had completed, all being still quiet, he returned to us again, hoping that no assault would be attempted that night. Nevertheless, when we proposed to retire, he stationed a sentinel at a short distance from the house; a wise precaution, for in less than two hours afterwards we were all roused by the report of the sentinel's musket, and having armed ourselves, inquired why he had given the alarm. His answer was appalling; he had seen two

Indians by the glimpse of the moonlight, skulking among the trees near the house, and had fired at them.

"Upon hearing this, my father said, it might be as well if we all watched the remainder of the night. Nothing was, however, seen for a long time; and some were beginning to think that the sentinel had been mistaken, when another, pointing to a clump of bushes, aid softly, that he could perceive several Indians gliding behind it, and asked permission to shoot in that direction, which being granted, he fired; and, to our consternation, a loud war whoop, together with shrieks arose, and a band of savages discharging their arrows, quickly advanced.

"My father having told us to reserve our fire till he gave the signal, our assailants came rather close; but, when the command was given, a sharp and well directed shower of shot was poured upon them. Still they continued their attack, until having gained a small eminence, they fired again, but with more deadly aim, for two of our party fell fatally wounded. By this time we had reloaded, and eager to revenge our comrades, returned the fire with such effect, that it sent the Indians yelling back to the woods.

"Having seen enough of their numbers to know, that the man had not exaggerated, there must be several yet concealed in the woods; we hoped the repulse they had received would deter them from making another assault, till we should have time to send for assistance. The difficulty was, however, to find messengers, for the bush was filled with our enemies, and for some time, no one volunteered to go.

"My father, therefore, called us all together, to consult what next might be done; and my brother and myself seeing the necessity of immediate succour, offered to undertake the adventure, to which, after some hesitation, the old man agreed. Taking up our arms, we left the house, and proceeded slowly through the underwood to the primeval forest at the back of it, and by making a circuit, gained the path; but as we proceeded, we found every place devastated, and saw that we would have to go so far before we could arrive at any farm which could afford assistance, that most likely our aid would come too late; we therefore resolved to return home.

"The sun was in the meridian; we had been absent many hours, and were so fatigued by our previous watching, that rest was necessary, before we could again be able to make much speed; but we persevered, and, having returned to our own clearing, and hearing no noise, we imagined that the Indians had retreated. How great was our grief and astonishment at seeing our home destroyed, and all silence and ashes! We still, however, went forward, with a wild hope, to discover how it had happened.

"While looking at the wreck of our habitation, our attention was attracted by a loud groan, which proceeded from one of the settlers, whom we then discovered wounded among the bushes. On approaching him, he eagerly begged for a little water, which, when he had received, partly restored him, and enabled him to tell us what had happened in our absence.

"Soon after you left," said he, 'we saw the Indians appearing at the skirt of the forest, and in greater numbers than before. Your father then regretted your absence, as in the approaching conflict we would be deprived of your aid; but he still endeavoured to keep up our courage by cheering us with the hopes of your return with succour.'

"The Indians having gathered themselves together advanced, but with more caution than before. By keeping up a continual discharge of our fire-arms, we for some time checked them; when seeing the danger of remaining in a body, they separated, and rendered our shot less effective. Your father then ordered us to suspend firing, till they came nearer, or had again united, which unfortunately allowed them to advance till we were within reach of their arrows, which they then began to shower upon us: under cover of them, a party came almost to the very house. We had, therefore, reason to fear, that if you did not soon return, we should be overcome—our extremity became desperate. We sprung out, and attacked them furiously with the butt end of our guns; but they baffled us with their agility and superior numbers, and after a desperate fight, compelled us to retreat. In returning, I was wounded by an arrow; and the confusion prevented me from being carried off into the house, where my companions sought shelter—I thus became a passive, helpless, spectator. Some of the Indians rushed into the house, and their companions poured in upon our friends, who had taken refuge there, incessant flights of arrows, both by doors and windows. At last the house was involved in flames, and the refugees throwing open the back door, fled towards the forest, and might have escaped, had not another herd of the savages sprung up before them, and intercepted their flight.

"The Indians having thus surrounded their prey, continued to discharge their bows from a distance, which our friends from time to time retorted with