

him from having once sustained the pressure of his beloved; loud sobs shook his prostrate frame, and seemed as if almost rending his disordered breast.

The stoical Indians beheld with unfigned surprise these demonstrations of grief in the soldier. Taught as they were from their earliest years to conceal all signs and expressions of suffering, as unworthy of a warrior, a feeling of contempt, for what they deemed a reprehensible weakness in the Englishman, rose in the minds of both; which, however, in Argimou at least, was soon softened by a touch of compassion.

The reader can surmise the source from whence, as from a clear fountain, a sudden stream of pity gushed within the heart of the chief. Had not that one common sentiment unconsciously created, from the first, a bond of sympathy between this rude forest child, and the polished, but pure minded stranger?

When the poignant sensibilities of the lover had somewhat subsided, he noticed the many indications of a temporary sojourn of those holding captive the dear object of his thoughts and aims, and marked the direction of the route the party had taken, running, as it did, along the bank of the river, expressing, at the same time, an earnest wish that they would push on in pursuit without an instant's delay.

Upon their return to the canoe they found Dennis seated upon its edge, comfortably curling a cloud of white smoke from the corner of his mouth, for he had made shift, with flint and steel, to light his pipe—as great a curiosity as its owner, by the way—and seemed more reconciled to his fate. At that moment he had finished trying to settle with his conscience—whether he was responsible, considering the circumstances, for the infraction of his oath; but being unable to arrive at any definite conclusion in his mind, he did as others do on similar occasions, dismissed the subject: being inwardly resolved to consult the priest upon the first occasion that offered, as, doubtless, his reverence would settle the matter to his satisfaction.

Following the course of the river, they propelled their bark onward until they emerged from the deep shadow of the hills; then crossing over to the eastern side, the adventurers landed at a convenient spot near the junction of a tributary stream; for the sun had long set, and a strong current began to impede their progress, as the tide was on its ebb. Lifting the canoe bodily from the water, the guides made choice of a secluded spot among the

trees; and kindling a fire, made preparations for passing the night—the underwood being cleared away, the arms and other articles deposited in divers places near at hand, and blankets spread upon the mossy ground. The light of the fire diffused a cheerful glow upon the little circle, tinging the foliage around, which formed a natural bower above their heads; and so calm and quiet was the evening air that not a leaf was in motion, save, only, where the heat and smoke, rushing upward, made them quiver as they escaped into the pure atmosphere beyond. After partaking of a simple meal of dried venison, prepared by the Indians, Edward stretched his fatigued limbs upon the soft moss, and wrapping his cloak around him was soon buried in sleep; nor was Dennis backward in following his example. But the foresters trimmed the fire and disposed themselves gravely by its side. Pansaway, filling a tobacco bowl in the back of his war-hatchet, lighted it and drew several long whiffs from its hollow stem without speaking, he then handed it to Argimou, who also puffed awhile, after which he returned it again to his father. In this manner the two-fold implement—emblematic of peace or war, according to its uses—was handed from one to the other three distinct times, when the elder warrior, replenishing it from his pouch, broke the silence by alluding to the object of their present journey; and proposing two different routes by which their purpose could be effected. One by pursuing the trail of Madokawando, which was the shortest and would lead them directly to the banks of the great river, where he knew the chief's village to be situated. The other was to follow the Petecodiac to its head waters, and from thence cross over to the St. John; a more circuitous journey, but presenting less difficulties than the first, as they would thus in some measure avoid the danger of meeting with war-parties of the Milicete, and lessen the distance they would have to travel on foot; which, though hardly an object to them, would, nevertheless, be a great relief to the pale-faces, who, as was evident, were unused to the woods, and unable to encounter its toils with impunity. The speaker avowed himself in favour of the latter course, but desired his son to offer his opinion on the subject, which he did with much deference, suggesting that the delay necessarily attendant upon their deviation from a direct path to the sunset, more than counterbalanced the objections to an overland passage; therefore, though he fully admitted the truth of what his father had said, and he was much wiser