

at length sent out the desired reinforcement, and it was joyfully welcomed by the inhabitants, who were thus relieved from military duty, which they had been obliged to perform, to the great neglect of more peaceful and improving arts. The Count also resumed the licenses to traffic at the lakes, which had been withdrawn by royal edict, and commerce again flowed in a regular and profitable channel.

The expedition, with so many important objects in view, was cheered at parting with the best wishes of all loyal citizens. It presented a singular sight, that immense armament of boats entering the solitary waters of the great river of the Ontaouais. Batteaux containing artillery, field pieces, and ammunition, led the van, followed by canoes filled with provisions and camp equipage. A large body of friendly Indians—the Christians of the mountains, the Iroquois of the Sault St. Louis, and the Hurons of Lorette, in war dresses, filled a multitude of bark canoes, and the French troops and bands of volunteers, in the same light vessels, in regular file and exact order, furrowed the peaceful waters of the slumbering stream.

Following in the rear were a large number of canoes, navigated by *Coueurs de Bois*, who gladly availed themselves of military protection in conveying their valuable merchandise to distant trading ports. That hardy and half savage race of people, in their wild attire, with their bronzed and shrewd faces, and bold defiant air, formed a singular contrast with the smart trappings, the trained motions, and strict order of the soldiery. The *Coueurs* occupied some twenty canoes, each canoe containing two men, and filled with merchandize, valued at a thousand crowns. The money thus invested brought on return an enormous profit, usually not less than seven hundred per cent., the result, too often, of gross imposition on savage credulity and their love of gaudy trinkets.

Nothing could be more imposing than the wild magnificence of the solitary wilderness, through which this singular armament passed. Rich masses of summer foliage, blending all hues from the tender green of the quivering aspen to the dark tapering firs,—depth of forest which bewildered the imagination—cheerful glades sometimes opening to the sun—rocks, clothed with mosses and wild flowers, overhanging dashing streams—and over all, a sky of clearest blue, and sunlight, golden as the gates of an eastern paradise. Day after day, that long train of boats followed the course of the Ontaouais, through vast regions that seemed never to have echoed the glad tones

of a human voice, or the tread of human footsteps. The lightest spirits were awed by the grandeur of those vast, continued forests—those wide-extended plains—the lofty pines reaching to heaven—and the mighty stream which had rolled for ages through that unpeopled region. The red denizen of the forest perhaps still lurked in its recesses, but no living objects were seen, but harmless wild animals, startled from their coverts—sometimes a herd of deer lying in sheltered glades, or standing on the margin of the stream, their branching antlers mirrored in the crystal wave.

After travelling some days, the river became narrower, more rapid and difficult to navigate. The boats were sometimes delayed at a *portage*, as the rapids frequently interrupted their course, the shallow water foaming over dangerous rocks, and it was necessary to disembark the troops and march some distance along the shore. As they left the borders of civilization far behind, there was also danger of surprise from the Indians, for the Iroquois had declared open warfare, by sending a bundle of arrows tied with a serpent's skin, and the Hurons of the Lake, and other tribes, had often shown themselves treacherous friends.

It was well for Adolphe Valois that his sombre thoughts were kept in check, by a constant demand on his time and services.

Lovers are always prone to exaggerate the misery of separation, and Adolphe's reveries, it must be confessed, were not all *couleur de rose*. But his faith in Clarice's constant affection remained unshaken, and youth is slow to perceive the evils of a distant future. If the passing hours were marked only by heavy hearts, few would complain of the rapid flight of time. Adolphe thought the days interminable in length, and looked forward to his distant return as to the accomplishment of a life-long task. But he applied himself earnestly to the duties of his position; and duty cheerfully performed always brings the reward of contentment, even if the heart has not every coveted blessing in possession.

The army was delayed one evening at the foot of formidable rapids, which presented an insurmountable barrier to the passage of the boats. The river in its whole breadth fell over a ledge of perpendicular rocks, forming a curtain of surpassing beauty and dazzling whiteness. The banks on each side were precipitous, and thickly wooded, wild, and rich in bloom and verdure—in lights and shadows, such as please an artist's eye, but they were discouraging enough to wearied troops, already impatient of delays and difficulties. They gladly obeyed orders to halt for the