

XIX

What other thoughts may fill the Micmac's soul,
 As his lank form stands out against the sky?
 Does he recall the sachem's warning threat
 That thunder-clubs ⁴³ should smite the thunderers,
 And fire-water ⁴⁴ sear the dealer's soul,—
 Or does he speculate on mysteries
 That ever contradict plain reasoning,
 And prove that over all there must be One,
Nesulk, or *Nikskam*,—*Ukche-sakumow*, ⁴⁵
 Whose thoughts are not the thoughts of human minds.
 Perhaps he finds that two and two make five
 When human feelings influence the sum : ⁴⁶
 But why 'perhaps'? an awful deed is done,
 And reason, blinded, stares into the sun.

XX.

Ye, who condemned the Exile as a crime :
 Pause but a moment,—think,—and then pass on;
 Know that no mortal man is wholly free
 From racial or religious prejudice;
 Know too, that of the thousands who have read
 The thrilling romance of Evangeline,
 And suffered with the suffering portrayed,—
 But few will read in heavy history
 The pros and cons, and with impartial minds
 Deliberately weigh the evidence.
 Then,—feeling that this essay has a place,
 Accept this feeble effort to explain
 What in a thousand manuscripts ⁴⁷ lies buried deep;
 While treasures of dry historic facts,
 By skilful men impartially arrayed,
 Must still confound what they elucidate;
 For twice the human lens refracts the light, ⁴⁸

French explorers tried by every means to capture him and take him home to France. Not only did he have the strength of Samson with the wisdom of Solomon, but he was a deity who went about doing good, and would be among his people yet, were it not for the treachery of the foreigner and the deceit of the nations of Megamagee, the Acadie, or desirable place of the Micmacs.

⁴³ The poetical epithet bestowed on the old flint-lock which replaced the war-club.

⁴⁴ Fire-water was one of the first commodities brought, the blighting, withering curse of the pale-face, which could not be resisted when once it had kindled an appetite heretofore unknown in nervous constitutions of the sons of the forest.

⁴⁵ *Nesulk*, Micmac for maker, creator; *Nikskam*, Micmac for Father of us all; *Ukche-sakumow*, Micmac for Great Chief.

⁴⁶ The personal equation is a prime factor in every problem, and must be reckoned with.

⁴⁷ In the Archives at Paris, Quebec, British Museum, etc. many of which are referred to by Parkman.

⁴⁸ The deceptive refraction of light is well known. Compare also Pope's couplet " 'Tis with our judgments as our watches, none go just alike, yet each believes his own."