

which is so conspicuous in the harangues of the natives;—while the listeners, with stolid countenances and grave attention puffed long whiffs of smoke from the variegated stems of their pipes; the bowls of which, wrought of dark stone, were ingeniously and even elegantly carved. Near at hand a more noisy set were seated on their hams, playing the game of the Bone, with a number of round flat pieces made of that substance, differently marked and coloured; which being thrown up and caught in a wooden platter, denoted by their position the chances of the player. Several lookers-on were gathered round the principal parties, who by vehement exclamation and loud shouting, evinced their interest in the result; and such was the infatuation of some, that knives, guns, and all their worldly possessions, were staked upon the hazard of a throw, until they were left almost naked—for they even stripped themselves of their habiliments to allure the smiles of that "*Ignis fatuus*"—Fortune.

Here and there a trio of maidens in richly figured caps of conical shape, and long gowns of foreign material, would excite observation from their showy exterior, and the peals of musical laughter which ever and anon rang, clear as a bell, from their merry lips; but they were few in proportion to the other sex, and, as the small portion of leggin allowed to be seen below the upper garment proved, belonged, with one or two exceptions, to the Micmac tribe—of which were the greatest portion of the warriors there assembled.

But in remarkable contrast to the peculiar stamp of the before mentioned clusters of wild, unsophisticated savages, a number of Acadian peasantry in broad rimmed hats of straw, and half military costume, which was deemed essential to the warlike spirit of the time, conversed apart from the rest, with the vivacity common to their light-hearted nation. Among these were mingled a few French officers from the garrison of the fort, whose brilliant uniforms and martial-looking mustaches created a still greater dissimilitude to the dress and lineaments of their Indian coadjutors.

On the smooth sand that bordered the rippling tide, were upturned a number of bark canoes, which seemed objects of considerable curiosity to one or two young soldiers, lately arrived from "*La belle France*;" who, after minutely examining their construction, expressed by divers shrugs and facial contortions, their unqualified contempt and amazement that a human being should be so regardless of personal safety as to trust himself to the guardian-

ship of such nut-shell fabrics. And in the wavelets that spread their store with a quiet whisper upon the strand a few gleeful, plump-looking urchins were dipping their unshod feet, and scampering about in boisterous merriment, utterly regardless of the proximity of the pale-faces. Higher up and half hidden by the branches of the trees, was a large tent of square form, composed of green stakes and interlaced boughs of the fragrant fir, in which were seated, in full council, the elders of the nation, and the chiefs of the several war-parties, from the allied tribes, then gathered together to assist in the grand ceremony about to take place, namely—the inauguration of the newly elected chief to the important position and powers which he was henceforth to assume in the opinions and concerns of his nation. This envied rank, only attained by the superior acquirements and courage of the possessor; as, unlike many other tribes of this extraordinary people, it was not transferred by hereditary succession, but acquired through general suffrage alone—had become vacant by the death of the previous occupant, who was slain in a hostile expedition to the British settlements on the peninsula, from which the present bands had not long since returned.

While the various knots and stragglers of this large body of Indians, following the bent of idle caprice or personal inclination, were occupied in the manner we have described, the quick, dull taps of a drum were heard to proceed from the council tent; whereupon each warrior sprang simultaneously to his feet, and fell, as if by tacit consent, into the ranks; which were speedily ranged in the form of an open circle, the circumference of which was increased gradually by the repeated addition of row after row, till the whole assembly were gathered into its limits—appearing like a living belt of silent, immovable figures, the innermost portion of whom were seated on the green sward, with the intention of allowing the supervision of those in the rear. On that side nearest the secret conclave, a double line of natives formed a lane leading to the door of the tent; and within the enclosure, beside the passage of communication, stood the representatives of French domination, before alluded to. Amongst the zone of grave, stern faces clustered every where around, not a single muscle betrayed the smallest movement, or was ought betokening animation visible, save the unceasing gleam of innumerable black eyes, indeed, though the several aspects varied in feature and in the exaggeration of expression, pro-