

haven't. I sometimes think I should like to live in your neighborhood that I might look at your happiness; but on the whole it is better I should quit the 55th altogether, and go back to the 60th, which is my native regiment, as it might be. It would have been better, perhaps, had I never left it, though my services were much wanted in this quarter, and I'd been with some of the 55th years ago — Sergeant Dunham, for instance, when he was in another corps. Still, Jasper, I do not regret that I've known you" —

"And me, Pathfinder!" impetuously interrupted Mabel, "do you regret having known *me*? — could I think so, I should never be at peace with myself!"

"You, Mabel!" returned the guide, taking the hand of our heroine, and looking up into her countenance with guileless simplicity but earnest affection — "how could I be sorry that a ray of the sun came across the gloom of a cheerless day? that light has broken in upon darkness, though it remained so short a time! I do not flatter myself with being able to march quite as light-hearted as I once used to could, or to sleep as sound for some time to come; but I shall always remember how near I was to being undeservedly happy, I shall. So far from blaming you, Mabel, I only blame myself for being so vain as to think it possible I could please such a creature; for, certainly you told me how it was when we talked it over on the mountain, and I ought to have believed you then; for I do suppose it's natural that young women should know their own minds better than their fathers. Ah's me! It's settled now, and nothing remains but for me to take leave of you that you may depart; I feel that Master Cap must be impatient, and there is danger of his coming on shore to look for us all."

"To take leave!" exclaimed Mabel.

"Leave!" echoed Jasper; "you do not mean to quit us, my friend?"

"'Tis best, Mabel — 'tis altogether best, Eau-douce; and it's wisest. I could live and die in your company if I only followed feeling; but if I follow reason, I shall quit you here. You will go back to Oswego, and become man and