

dance. After a long deliberation, during which several measures were proposed and discussed, that suggested the means of escape from their present precarious situation, Edward, as usual, determined after some hesitation, to adopt the advice of his allies, which was on many accounts, most preferable, and the only method by which there was a probable chance of their effecting a safe retreat from the neighbourhood of the Milicete, though their personal liberty would be compromised thereby. Completely hemmed in by revengeful enemies, from whose vigilance their present security appeared provisional, the only course remaining open was the river, the rapids of which were said to be impassible, when the tide was on the flood; and to afford the means of prosecuting this plan, the chief proposed abstracting a canoe from the Milicete village on the following evening. But this route, though less liable to a rencounter with their foes, was still extremely hazardous, as Waswetchcul informed them that a short time before, her uncle, with the fighting men of his village, had gone to the salt water to assist in the defence of the French fort, against the armament, whose destination seemed so well known to the enemy. Indeed it appeared to the soldier, quite impossible that they should reach that fortress without being intercepted by outlying parties of the natives, as it had been decided that they should yield themselves up as prisoners of war, rather than endure the uncertainty, and perhaps ultimate captivity and death, in its most harrowing forms, which might result from an attempt to run the gauntlet through the very heart of the hostile tribe; and even were they fortunate enough to achieve that step, what progress could be made with so weak and delicate a charge as Clarence, debilitated as she was already, would surely become? At Fort Bourbon, as it was called, Edward could depend upon securing courteous treatment, and above all, suitable comforts for his betrothed, until according to established usage, an exchange could be effected and their freedom regained.— Amidst this cheerless prospect, one bright hope could intrude itself, and like a ray of sunlight in a Rembrandt picture, illuminate the else relative void.

As nearly as he could judge, the projected attack of this same fort was to be made about that very time, and the intelligence of the Milicete girl rendered it probable that an investment had not yet taken place, which—in the case, and provided they made the descent from the St. John, unmolested, would afford a

ready means of relief and restoration to the British settlements, should they find Captain Rouse in the vicinity, on their arrival at the sea coast.

Having concluded upon adopting the *dernier resort* above mentioned, and leaving their ulterior movements to be biassed by the aspect circumstances thereafter might assume, Edward turned his attention to the more immediate perils by which they were encompassed. Nor were they of trifling consideration, for scarce had the cheek of Clarence, who was wonderfully refreshed by her slumbers, begun to glow with somewhat of its pristine bloom, as the lover spoke in low, earnest tones at her side, when it was blanched to a deadly hue, and she trembled with sudden agitation, gazing meanwhile, with a look of dread, at an object beneath the cliff. Following the direction of her eye, Edward observed three canoes dart simultaneously into view from a point of the stream above, and sweep down the river with astonishing speed, directly under the aerie-like cleft, where they were concealed.

"Ugh!" ejaculated Pansaway; "the wolves are on the trail of the stray deer; but their noses are full of dust. They cannot see the *Sunbeam*; for you see, their eyes are all the same like the owl's in the day-time. What say ye, brother?"

"Yes," replied Edward, with despondency, unconsciously adopting the style of the natives; "but well I know their errand—they go to give notice of the captive's escape, that the warriors may quicken their scent, and wash the film from their eyes, that they may seek for the unseen enemy; is it not so?"

"The *Open Hand* has said it," rejoined Pansaway, "but the Micmac shall be as the wind;—you can feel him—you can hear his war-cry, but always with a powerful arm and a sound, he comes and goes—no man knoweth whence or whither; and even where the wind can pass, there may the *Sunbeam* follow!"

Still as Edward beheld the prospect thickening with danger, his heart sunk despairingly; for himself he had no care, but the thought of what might befall the cherished being, whose fate was so closely interwoven with his own, almost unmanned him. The feeling, however, was only momentary, for he rallied quickly when Argimou, who had been reconnoitering, told that a party of Milicete were ascending the brow of the hill on their left. Quickly drawing Clarence within the furthest recess of the fissure in the limestone rock, where she was