

to its serious consideration. Giving that as our best excuse for this long digression, we will now proceed to the development of our story.

Of that portion of coast which, washed by the waves of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, terminates the north eastern limits of Nova-Scotia, the bold promontory bearing the name of Cape Tormentine, forms a most conspicuous feature. This headland, giving existence to a beautiful bay on its southern side, forms the nearest point of connection with the adjacent Island of Prince Edward, or St. John, as it was then called; indeed, from the similarity of its soil with the general red colour of the opposite shores, one would fain imagine that at some distant period the latter were united at that particular spot with the main, and though a convulsive effort of Nature severed the medium of conjunction, and caused a narrow strait to flow between, the parent still advanced her giant limb to promote a re-union with her alienated child. A long line of dim coast, here distinctly visible, but receding in a deep bay to the eastward, until you might mistake it for a blue cloud resting on the horizon, appeared to run almost parallel with the main land.

Turning shoreward, the view, at the time of which we write, was enchanting in the extreme, from its glowing luxuriance, and the refreshing contrast of the bright green foliage, clothing every eminence and hollow until it dipped into the blue water clasping point and indent, and reflecting from its clear depths a fairy semblance of surrounding objects; and a few pale shreds of cloud scattered over the firmament above. The Baye Verte after stretching far inland, contracted its limits; when again expanding, it terminated in a second bay of small extent compared with the space beyond, but far surpassing it in materials of picturesque beauty. Several deep coves, each transmitting a silvery stream, pierced the land at the harbour's head, into the bosom of which the Gaspareaux River also poured its tributary flood, and lost its identity by mingling with the brine of the impatient sea. Near this estuary the ramparts of a fort could be observed, from which waved lazily the "tri-colour" of France, and dotting the surface of the water numerous canoes filled with natives appeared swiftly concentrating toward the jutting point at the entrance of the inner bay, on its northern side, where an animating scene was just then exhibiting.

Upon a sloping plateau, which was divested of the exuberant vegetation garnishing the

landscape, and blending insensibly with the sand of the beach, a crowd of dark skinned warriors were gathered in various groups of a wild and fanciful character. In one place might be seen a knot of Micmacs from the Bay Des Chaleurs, in tunics of deer skin, confined round the waist with a sash of brilliant colours, or merely a leather thong, and legs encased in tight leggins, in many instances of blue cloth, embroidered with fringes of red hair down the side; below which the moccasins displayed an instep ornamented with figures worked in dyed moose hair, or the quills of the porcupine.—Every man carried in his girdle the *witch-bodie*, or purse, made of the skin of some small animal, the paws and tail of which were still preserved, and often garnished with beads and scarlet cloth; beside this depended in its blood-soaked sheath, the long bladed knife—that ruthless weapon which is inseparable from the war equipment of an Indian brave. Across the knees of some lay the long French fusce, while others held a tough bow with its store of flint-headed arrows.

These men, who were of strong athletic make and lofty stature, reclined in attitudes of unconscious grace, assisted by the unfettered freedom of their costume, and the indefinable air of majesty which breathes, as it were, from the lineaments of the forest-born, and flashed in fiery glances from eyes of most intense blackness; the expression of deep determination upon each face was softened by the masses of raven hair, which, though cut short over the brows, fell in thick shades to the brawny shoulders. In another place, a party similar in general appearance to the above, but differing slightly in apparel, attracted the eye. These were Penobscot warriors from the westward, with their neighbours of the Miiceto tribe; and their habiliments were more in keeping with their rude, savage aspect; for occupying a territory further removed from the European settlements, they had not caught insensibly the polite tone which was evident in the Micmacs, from their intercourse with the French; nor were they enabled to procure, thereby, the dearly prized finery of their gayer brethren. One individual, who appeared to be a subordinate chief, wore a cap made of the skin of a cariboo's head, to which was attached the branching horns—giving a fantastic appearance to the gigantic proportions of the wearer as with impressive action of the right arm he recounted his warlike exploits, or delivered some exposition of Indian policy, with all the force of gesticulation and passionate appeal,