

minutes entranced with wonder and delight at the magnificent panorama that burst upon his vision on emerging from the deep pine woods into an open plateau, of some six or eight hundred feet in circumference.

Far below him rushed the stream, known by the Indian name of the Ne-re-pis. To the east, for many a mile, the slanting rays of the setting sun were poured in a flood of golden light upon the pea green foliage of the hardwood forest. To the south lay the valley of the *Nerepis*, thrown into deeper shadow by the contrast; while on the west, at the distance of only a few rods, rose a perpendicular wall of granite, several hundred feet in height, on which were perched several of those gigantic birds of prey, from which, in after times, the place derived the name of *The Eagle Cliffs*.

Picking his way over fallen trees and huge masses of rock, lying at the base of the cliff, the delighted angler threw down his burthen, uttering an impassioned *apostrophe* to nature and his good genius, which had prepared for him so enjoyable an intellectual repast, after the toils of the day were done. Fixing his gaze first upon the cliff, grey and cold, now turning away from the sunlight, crewhile warm and glowing, as it wooed its genial rays,—and again on the distant hills which rose one above another until they became lost in obscurity,—he gave himself up to one of those glorious day-dreams in which youth is so fond of revelling, and from which he awoke not until the last lingering rays of the sun had withdrawn from the highest hill-top, and the crimson tints of the western sky had begun to give place to the sombre shadows of night.

As it has been usual with story-tellers from time immemorial to expatiate more or less on the mental or moral qualities of their heroes, it may be expected that we should give some description of the person who was thus privileged to be the first civilized being to stand on this one of the notable spots which are found in almost every land, breaking the monotony of the surrounding country, and filling the mind of the beholder with imaginings of the stupendous power and force at work in chiselling out the rougher features of our mother earth.

To say that he was either a Hercules or an Adonis, or that the strength and stature of the one, and the comeliness of the other were combined in the person of Arthur Lee, might be the means of commending him to the good graces of our readers, especially of the fair sex, but a respect for veracity compels us to forego the temptation; and yet, such was his strength of limb and grace of motion, that few could compare with him as a specimen of robust manhood.

Some six feet or more in height, straight limbed, square shouldered, eagle-eyed, fearless of danger, inured to toil, practised in all the arts of the woodman's life, of which he was passionately fond, he would have proved no mean antagonist, in the list of the athlete; and when we add, that with good humor and ready wit, were combined earnestness and truth, which shone in every feature of at least an ordinarily handsome face, it may be conceded that he was sufficiently *distingué* to claim the regards of a fashionable drawing room assembly, if not to prove a formidable rival to the best favoured *habitues* of the *salons* of Society, most of whom would have cut but a sorry figure in the coarse frock and leather leggins, which set out his physical man to no small advantage.

"Yes," he soliloquised, as though he were pursuing the train of previous reflection, while regarding the frowning rocks, "you stand there, grim and sphinx-like, knowing and caring nothing for the changes that have taken place since ye were upheaved from your primeval bed. Hoary in years, but in your experiences youthful, ye reck not of the cities that have been built, of the blood that has been spilt, of the nations that have been lost; but ye may yet learn something of their traditions, and look down anon upon some of the triumphs of a higher civilization, to which all that is past is as the first faint streak of light that heralds the advent of a summer's day."

Such were some of the thoughts extemporised by the novelty and solemnity of the scene; and the youth felt, while he was striking a spark with a flint and steel, for the purpose of lighting a fire, that it was something like desecration to occupy for culinary purposes a spot so mystic, that he