

"The Mohawks will discover the cave of Nita—they are even now on his trail in the thicket, and will soon be upon him. The war-chief's daughter does not see him armed with his weapons of war," said Ominee, evidently placing more confidence in the fire-arms of the pale face, than his capacity of outwitting the Indian by any attempt at concealment.—De Soulis, in listening intently, became aware, that what the maiden had stated was too true, for he could distinctly hear the stealthy feet of his enemies over head, and had no doubt of their being enabled to discover his retreat, did not the evening prevent them, which was now drawing to a close. He therefore took the hand of Ominee, and hurried her along the covered way until they arrived at a large apartment which appeared to her to be directly under the block house. The tread of numerous feet shortly afterwards on the floor above, convinced her that this was the case, and it became evident to her that this was a secret passage of escape prepared by the adventurers at the time of the erection of the building, of which the pale-face had availed himself for her protection. The warriors seemed now to be assembling above, and with a strong reliance on the valor of her lover, and the efficacy of his terrible war-implements, Ominee could not but shudder at the awful proximity of such an overwhelming force of infuriated enemies, and gave evidence of her dread by grasping more closely the hand which she held. De Soulis re-assured her in every way in his power, but at the same time kept his attention momentarily directed to the passage through which they had come, as the point from whence the greatest danger was to be anticipated. Ere long, however, he became convinced that the search had been discontinued, and he then applied himself to the task of ascertaining the designs of the enemy. He learned from the directions of the leading chief, which he managed to overhear, that it was their intention to hold the block house until reinforced by their friends from above, and it became evident to him from this, that they formed no part of the force which had been dispersed at the Knisteneaux village, and were not aware of the retreat of that body. Shaping his plans accordingly, at the nightfall, he imparted to Ominee his intention of endeavoring to communicate with her father.—She would have accompanied him, but he urged upon her the necessity of her remaining concealed, lest their movements should be discovered; and leading her to the extremity of the passage where all sound of their terrible enemy might be shut out, he again re-assured her of his speedy return, and immediately proceeded to raise the trap, and took his departure.—Ominee had become aware of his having now assumed his war-weapons, so dreadful to the Mohawks, and had no doubt of his ability fully to protect himself against any of their attacks. She remained seated at one of the apertures between