

man, who saluted the General, and at his request seated himself on the ground near him, was Jed Stiffens, the most famous scout and ranger attached to the American army, whose services were of so brilliant a nature that they attracted the attention of Washington, and caused him to recommend his employment by Sullivan.

One fact lent additional value to the peculiar work of Jed Stiffens, so far as it could be rendered in behalf of General Sullivan. His birthplace was Central New York. When a boy, he had done fine work in the French and Indian War; he had been a prisoner for several years among the Indians, and, gifted by nature with a special aptitude for acquiring languages, he was as much at home among any member of the Iroquois confederation, so far as their tongue was concerned, as were the Indians themselves.

Fully trusted by Sullivan, who, it need not be said, had a large number of other scouts on duty, that officer relied more upon what Jed told him than upon all the others. He treated him with every consideration, and when the two were seated near each other, no one, not observing the two uniforms, would have suspected there was any difference of rank between them.

"Jed," said Sullivan, puffing his pipe faster, and then removing it with a nervous quickness from