

who, after some general conversation, desired to know whether we were not inclined to ransom Anna (Mrs. Bulgin). Mr. B. instantly offered his last cloak, and every one of us adding some parts of his clothes, we soon formed a considerable heap, which we cheerfully offered for the ransom of the unfortunate captive. But the savages insisted on having four infants in addition, declaring that the countrymen would not part with her for a lower price. Not wishing to give them an absolute denial, we demanded that we should be allowed to see the lady before we took further steps. The savages consented, and she soon appeared, attended by a great number of them, on the opposite shore. At our request two men accompanied her in a boat, till within fifty or twenty fathoms of us, where we again began bargaining for her. It would be in vain to attempt a description of the ensuing scene. The unfortunate couple were melted into tears, and their convulsive sobs almost deprived them of utterance. We also wept; and none but the feeling natives remained unmoved. The lady told her husband that she had been humanely and kindly treated, that the other prisoners were also alive, and now at the mouth of the river. In the mean time the natives persisted in their demand of four muskets; and finding us unwilling, in this point, they at length carried their prisoner back again to the opposite shore, Mr. Bulgin, upon this, assuming the air of a commander, ordered me pre-emptively to deliver up the muskets. In vain did I urge the impolicy of such an act, representing that having but one serviceable musket for each man left the giving up of so many which would be immediately employed against us would lead to our total destruction. He persisted in his demand till the men all declared that they would not separate themselves from their muskets at any price. In this determination we all felt deeply for the distress of the poor man; but when it is considered that our lives or liberty were at stake our conduct will be judged leniently. After this sad event we pursued our journey for several days till we were suddenly stopped by a heavy fall of snow, and as there was no appearance of its melting speedily we began to clear a road, and collect materials to build a house resembling in the mean time a temporary hut. We constantly saw boats with natives on the river; and one day, a youth, the son of a Teén with two other men, landed with his canoe and paid us a visit. He told us that a hut was not far off and on our offering to send one of our men with them, for the purpose of purchasing provisions they seemed highly pleased, expecting no doubt to obtain another prisoner; but in this they were disappointed; the man went with them, but the young Teén was detained as a hostage till his return. He came back empty handed, for the savages, whom he had found to the number of six men and two women would not sell him anything. Having this news checked by these savages, we now detained him in a boat and dispatched six of our men, armed with muskets in their hands to the hut, whence they soon returned with all the fish they could find in it. We then made some presents to our prisoners and dismissed them, each of an old man and a youth, as ninety salmon for which we paid him with copper bottoms.

A few days after this we entered upon our new habitation. It was a square hut, with seventy boxes at the angles. Soon after we were again visited by the young Teén, our neighbour: we asked him to sell us some fish, but receiving a rude answer, we put him under arrest, declaring that he could not be released till he had furnished us with our winter store, viz.—four hundred salmon, and four bladders of carver. He immediately dispatched his companions, who returned to him twice in the course of the week, holding out conferences with him. At last he asked us for a passage for his boats, which being granted, we soon saw thirteen boats, containing about seventy people of both sexes, going down the river; these people soon returned to us with a sufficient quantity of fish. We so obtained of them a sufficiently large to carry six persons. We then dismissed the young man, after presenting him with a spoiled musket and a few clothes.

We frequently sent our boat up the river, and wherever we found any fish in the huts, seized upon them as lawful prey. One day, when our boat was absent on one of these excursions, we had occasion to stop several boats full of natives, who were rowing in the same direction. As soon as our boat returned, we allowed them to proceed; they departed, however, saying that as our boat had taken away the fish, they had no further business. I endeavoured to make them understand, that having been driven to this by their cruelty, we had no other resource for the preservation of our lives, than seizing upon their stores. I assured them, however, that we would content ourselves with what we could find by the river; if they would leave us unmolested for the winter, our words were every in such cases, our boat downwards. This diplomatic point having been agreed to, we remained undisturbed during the whole year, and in possession of abundance of food.

Being informed that the savages were gathering in large numbers at the mouth of the river, and preparing to obstruct our progress along the coast in every possible manner, it was voted to build another boat, which within six or seven days, we carried up the river as high as possible, and then proceeded towards the south, endeavouring to reach the river Teén, about which the natives are less barbarous. This was difficult, but it was executed; and we only waited for the weather to enter upon our hazardous expedition,

when an event occurred which frustrated the whole of our plan.

Mr. Bulgin resumed his command; and having embarked in our boats, we set our bark on the 8th of February 1809, and sailed down the river. We stopped at the same spot where, the year before, Mrs. Bulgin had been produced to us. We not clearly perceived the object of our captain; but so great was our compassion for his sufferings, that we silently resigned ourselves to the dangers to which he was about to expose us.

He was here met by an old man, who presented us with an *akkié* (a water tight basket made of birchbark), full of a species of root of which the natives brew a kind of acid liquor. He showed himself very attentive, and offered to pilot down the river, to a navigation of which was rather intricate, on account of the many trees that were in it; we accepted his offer, and he treated himself honourably. Having reached a small island, he ordered us to come to him, and he went on shore. He returned soon after, informing us that there were many people on the island, who would shoot at us if we attempted to pass; he offered, therefore, to take us through a narrow channel, where we should be safe. We had nothing left but to trust to his honour, and we were not disappointed. We reached the mouth of the river in safety, and landed on a spot opposite an Indian village. Here our guide, whose name was *Ljattijukuk*, left us, after we had presented him with a shirt, a neck cloth, and a tin medal, cast for the occasion, and which we requested him to wear as a pledge of his neck.

Next morning we were visited by a great many natives, and among them we recognized the woman who had deceived us, and drawn Mrs. B. and her companions into captivity. We immediately seized her together with a young man and a boy, having fastened logs of wood to their feet, we declared that they should remain our prisoners till our people were restored to us. Soon after the woman's husband made his appearance, and assured us that they were not among them, having been all off to another tribe; but that he would go in search of them, and bring them to us in four days, if we would only promise not to kill his wife in the interval.

We now introduced ourselves on a neighbouring hill; and about a week after a number of savages appeared on the opposite shore of the river, expressing a wish to enter into treaty with us. Immediately we went down to the water's edge, attended by several of our people. An elderly man, dressed in the European style, appeared as the leader of the opposite party, amongst whom was Mrs. B. She immediately told us that our female prisoner was the sister of this chief, that they were both kind people, to whom she owed the greatest obligations, and demanded that we would instantly set her at liberty. On our telling her, however, that her husband would not liberate her, unless she herself were first restored to him, she replied, to our horror and astonishment, that she was very well contented to stay where she was; at the same time advising us to deliver ourselves also to her present protectors. Their chief, she said, was a candid and honourable man, well known on this coast, who would, without the least doubt, liberate, and send us on board two vessels, now lying in the bay of St. Juan de Fuca. As to the other prisoners, she said, they were dispersed among the tribes in the vicinity.

I tried for some time to persuade her to a different determination; but finding her immovable in her resolution, I returned, and reported her answer to her husband. The poor man thought at first that I was joking, and would not believe me; but after a little consideration he fell into a complete fury, took up a musket and swore he would shoot her. But he had not gone many steps when he repented; he stopped, and bursting into tears, begged me to go by myself, and try again to bring her to reason, and even to threaten that he would shoot her. I went and did as he bade me, but the woman resolutely replied: "as to each, I fear it not; I will rather die than wander with you again through the forests, where we may fall at last into the hands of some cruel tribe whilst now I live among kind and humane people; tell my husband that I despise his threats."

This cruel answer almost deprived the unfortunate and doating husband of his senses; he leaned against a tree wept bitterly. In the mean time I reflected upon his wife's words and ultimately determined to follow her advice, I communicated my resolution to my companions, who at first unanimously declared against it; but Mr. B. declaring that he would follow my example, they begged to be allowed to consider till the next morning.

The morning came, and the savages appeared again, renewing their demand for the restoration of the captives. This was immediately agreed to, and at the same time Mr. Bulgin, myself, and three others of our party surrendered ourselves to their discretion. The remainder of our comrades, however, obstinately refused to follow; having taken, therefore, a hearty farewell of each other, we departed with the tribe to which we now belonged.

The next day we reached the village of the *Keonikahoti*, a tribe in the vicinity of Cape Flattery, where my host the above-named chief *Yotramuki*, had his winter residence, Mr. B. went to the master of his wife, whilst the three others fell into various hands.

The remainder of our companions attempted to reach the Island of Destruction; but foundered upon a rock, and after losing all their powder, and some difficulty in escaping

with their lives. They tried, therefore, to escape, but being intercepted by another tribe, they were all taken prisoners and disposed along the coast.

At the end of the winter, my master returned to his village near Cape Flattery, taking with him myself and Mr. B. whom he had purchased from his master, with a promise of purchasing his wife also. We lived for some time very comfortably; but afterwards our situation frequently changed; the savages sometimes selling, sometimes giving us to our another. The fate of poor Mr. and Mrs. B. who had become reconciled to each other, was truly cruel; sometimes they were united together, sometimes separated, and in constant fear of being so for ever. At last death kindly released them; the lady died in August 1809, and in February of the following year her disconsolate husband followed her, but not to the grave, for his wife had been at her death in the hands of such a barbarian, that he would not allow her a burial, but had her exposed in the forest.

In the mean time, I passed the greater part of my captivity with the good *Yotramuki*, who treated me like a friend. These people are like children, and pleased with every trifling; I found, therefore, no difficulty in ingratiating myself with them, and the construction of paper kites and a watchman's rattle, spread my reputation, as well as that of the Russian nation in general, far amongst them. At last their veneration for my abilities was carried so far, that in one of the general assemblies of the *Tótsos*, it was resolved that they would hence forward consider me as one of their equals; after which I always enjoyed the same honours as my master, or any other chief. They often wondered how Bulgin, who could neither shoot birds flying nor use the hatchet, could have been born to such an office.

During the ensuing winter, so great a dearth of provisions ensued, that one beaver was paid for ten salmon.

With some chiefs the want was so great, that three of our countrymen took refuge with me, and my master was kind enough to support them till the next spring, when they were demanded back by their owners, and I had influence enough to ensure them immunity for their flight.

In the month of March we again removed to our summer village, where I built for myself a hut with embankments for defence, and of so novel a construction, that the chiefs came from great distances in order to see and admire it. In the mean time, however, God had heard our prayers, and provided for our deliverance. On the 6th of May an American brig the *Lydia*, Capt. Brown visited this coast. I went on board, and found one of our companions, whom the Capt. had released near the river *Comolme*. This honest rat immediately offered to ransom the whole of us. The savages, who thought this a good opportunity for obtaining large quantities of European goods, made such exorbitant demands, that Capt. Brown, to cut the matter short, took one of their chiefs into custody, and declared that he would detain him till all the Russians were delivered up to him for a moderate price, for which several of us had already been ransomed. This proceeding had the desired effect; in less than two days he liberated thirteen of us. Seven had died during our captivity, one had been sold to adjacent nation, among whom he remained, and was ransomed in 1809, by another American vessel, near the river *Comolme*.

On the 10th of May our vessel weighed anchor, and after touching at several points of the coast for the purpose of barter, we were safely landed on the 9th of June, at New Archangel.

Y. Z.