

prepared. No brave could take that amount of game in a year. They could sleep now without any fear that their princess would be taken from them.

But they reckoned without their suitor. Long before his father was awake, the young man was walking about the village when he spied the princess in front of her wigwam. Following tribal custom, no words were exchanged, but one glance assured him that the fame of her beauty wasn't exaggerated. In fact it hadn't been half told. Then and there he decided that no obstacle should prevent his gaining the consent of her father to their marriage.

During the morning another feast was prepared for the visitors. After partaking of it, the chief of the Moosehides gave his answer. Disappointment was plainly evident on the faces of the guests excepting the young suitor, who showed no surprise at all. With the impetuosity of youth he whispered to his father to bind the bargain. Game was plentiful, and he could easily take the required number of skins in a year. After some discussion the father gave his consent, and the visitors left on their long voyage upriver.

In five sleeps' time they reached their village, and without delay the young man quietly made preparations for his trip. On the following morning long before any of his people were stirring, he set out alone.

Months went by, and the chief could get no information as to the whereabouts of his son. Neighboring tribes had not seen him. The father despaired of finding his boy alive, when during the following month of May there was great ado in the village. A raft was seen floating down the river, piled high with skins and manned by a solitary hunter. The excitement grew when the raft was skillfully poled into the eddy and the hunter proved to be the chief's son. The raft was quickly unloaded, and the skins counted. The old chief was greatly pleased when he saw that the young man had bagged the required number. There should be no further delay to the wedding.

It was arranged that only a few braves were to accompany the suitor on his visit to the Moosehides, and as the allotted year would soon be up, they started down river at once. When they arrived at the mouth of the Tron Deg, disappointment was very evident among the Moosehides. The suitor had brought the skins, and the only thing they could do was to part with the princess.

They had no intention of giving her up however, if there was any way to prevent it. First, they would have a feast and a sleep; then they would discuss the marriage.

While the visitors were sleeping, the chief of the Moosehides called his braves in council. He also summoned his medicine man, and asked him to find a way out of their difficulty. The medicine man promised a solution if they would obey his instructions. They were to prepare a feast and have a big dance on the following night. During the dance the braves were to separate. The visitors