

ness of a few months freedom among forest shades, and unsophisticated men and women. I only pray the saints you may not come back with a blanket on your shoulders, and a tomahawk in your hand, or an Indian wife with a pappoose at her back! I am half tempted to go with you at all hazards, since the Governor would not listen to my humble petition, and give me a command in this service. I long to share your adventures and the glory, if there is to be any of this wild campaign."

"Your companionship would be truly welcome," said Valois, "but there can be little glory reaped in an expedition which is intended only to awe the savages into more friendly relations. At any other time I should enter with my whole heart into the spirit of whatever adventures may chance to befall me; but, now, I leave too much behind me, at the mercy of untoward circumstances. I have too many doubts and gloomy fears, for the future, to look out with a cheerful eye from my own selfish and engrossing thoughts."

"Thou hast no cause to be so desponding, believe me," said Mavicourt, warmly, "mademoiselle de Beausejour has a true heart and a right brave spirit, one can read it in her deep, clear eyes; her very lips, smiling as they are, express firmness and decision, but most gracefully tempered by the winning sweetness of her manner. I will wager my knightly spurs, when I get them, against the chances of thy success. But even if your fears should prove prophetic," he added gaily, "what then? a young heart is not broken by a single blow!"

Never despond! the world is before thee!

Flowers of all hues, its pathway adorn;  
Never despond! though some fade around thee,  
Gather the brightest, tread light o'er the thorns!"

"This is *thy* philosophy, Mavicourt," said Adolphe, "*mine* is more deeply seated. But a truce with moralizing. To-morrow you return to Quebec, and I need not say to you, watch over Clarice; be a friend, a brother to her, for she stands alone—surrounded by selfishness, where she ought to look for sympathy and protection, and I, in a remote wilderness, cannot reach out a hand to aid her!"

"I accept the trust with no less pride than pleasure, Adolphe, and if there is a *Coureur de Bois*, or a fleet-footed Indian to be found for a messenger, depend on it, you shall hear good tidings from me. So in the name of all the saints, and St. Cupid in particular, cheer thee up, friend, and go on thy way rejoicing!"

Cheer thee up! no more sighing—

Cheer thee up! youth is flying!

Bind with flowers

The rosy hours,

E'er the frail leaves wither.

Time, with hour-glass in his hand,

Ceaseless pours the golden sand;

Seize the treasure!

Sparkling pleasure,

Wait not till they're fallen!"

Mavicourt broke into song as usual, and was trilling his rhymes with great *gout*, when they reached the barriere, and the sentinel, roused from drowsy slumber, growled out an angry challenge. Valois gave the pass word of the night, and they were suffered to proceed to their quarters without further impediment.

Montreal, on the following day, presented a striking scene, one of those wild gala-days which have long since past away with the singular race who then filled the forests, and navigated the broad lakes and who came in their simplicity to barter rich furs and beaver-skins for the merest gew-gaws of European manufacture.

The Indian chiefs, at an early hour, sent messengers from their encampment to demand an audience of the Governor-General, who usually came up at that time, to meet them, the savages being exceedingly flattered by such a mark of attention. It was a matter of policy to conciliate the friendship of the powerful Hurons and Ontaouais, for their vast country was a barrier to the Iroquois, a most fierce and warlike tribe, and always faithful allies of the English, by whom, in the frequent collision between the two colonies, their craft and ferocity were often employed with terrible effect. The Governor granted an audience without delay, doubtless well pleased to get rid of his tawny visitors with all convenient speed, for if they found access to strong drink, of which they were extravagantly fond, their visits often terminated in scenes of terrible riot, which, though confined to themselves, kept the inhabitants in a state of alarming excitement.

The rendezvous was appointed in the marketplace, where the Governor-General and M. de Callieres, Governor of Montreal, seated in chairs of state, blazoned with the French arms, received the savages with great ceremony and respect. The two nations each formed a circle of its own, the warriors in their most imposing attire, sitting on the ground and smoking long pipes with the utmost gravity. The women of the tribes stood outside the circle, for they are rarely permitted to sit in the presence of their