sight of the flames, instead of fright-ening her, as Tannis had feared, seemed to steady her. She rose to her feet. "Is there any way out?" she asked.

her feet. "Is there any way out?" she asked.

"The front way," gasped Tannis. "Cover your face and head with your skirt, bend low and come." The two women, almost crawling on the floor, staggered at last into safety.

Outside they stood looking at the scene in front of them; a company of soldiers were vainly trying to stop the fire by means of buckets of water, but the Indians had fired the place too well. It soon was a heap of smouldering ashes. They left off battling with the flames and went to work to remove the dead and dying Indians, and some of their own men who had fallen. Jack Wilson left them and came toward the two women. "Mrs. Courtney," he said, "you will come back with us."

Tannis hesitated, but Mrs. Wilson broke in eagerly, "Of course you will. You can't stay here, you and the dear little baby. Poor little baby." She walked over to where the Indian woman stood with the baby in her arms. "You have had a—" She drew back in horror. "Mrs. Courtney," she called, "come at once, the Indians have stolen your baby."

Tannis ran over and took the baby out of Marie's arms. "No,

TANNIS ran over and took the baby out of Marie's arms. "No, they haven't, this is my son."
"Your son? Why, that is an Indian baby."
"Yes"—Tannis reared her head

"Yes"—Tannis reared her head proudly—"and my son. I, too, am an Indian." She turned and walked swiftly away.

Jack Wilson drew a long breath.
"Phew!" he said. "Poor Courtney."
"Do you think he knew?" asked

Marian.

"Hardly likely, she looks white. I guess he only found out when the haby came. I have head of many who have married Indians, and she is very pretty. Her father may have been white. Hush! here comes her husband."

been white. Hush: hushand."

"Where is Tannis?" asked Rafe Courtney, as he came up to them. "I thought she was here with you?"

"Yes, she has gone with the Ind—the baby's nurse, I mean," explained Jack, "through the forest. I say, old fellow, I—I—"

Jack, "through the forest. I say, old fellow, I—I—"

"Thank you," answered Rafe, haughtily. "You will excuse me if I follow my wife? She is doubtless soing to her father's house."

Once out of sight of their eyes, Rafe quickened his steps to a run; but he had gone some distance into the forest before he saw Tannis walking with steady, unfaltering feet; the Indian woman trailing behind her.

"Tannis!" he shouted. "Tannis!" She neither paused nor turned.

"Tannis!" he shouted again, but still Tannis walked on unheedingly. In a few minutes he caught up with them, ran swiftly to the girl and took her in his arms.

"Tannis," he asked, "why are you running away from me like this?"

Tannis's eves dropped to the

"Tannis," he asked, "why are you running away from me like this?"
Tannis's eyes dropped to the baby in her arms. "Because of my son."

baby in her arms.

son."

"My son, too," Rafe answered.

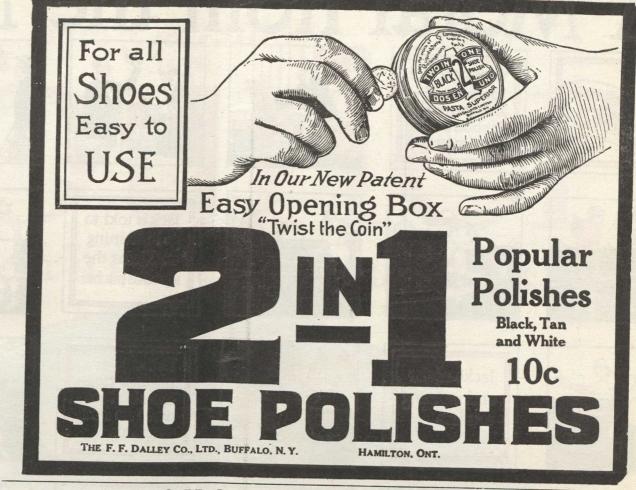
"No, no!" cried Tannis, trying to draw away from him, but Rafe only held her the tighter. "I cheated you. You didn't dream you were marrying an Indian till this morning, when you saw my son. I couldn't hide him any longer. You saw him and you left me." longer. me."

"Oh, Tannis, Tannis, my little Prairie Flower! I knew it all the time. Do you think," he went on gravely, "that Captain Kingston would have deceived me? He married an Indian woman and was proud of the fact. I married an Indian woman and am proud of the fact. I saw our son the first hour he was born. I left you only to go for help. Thunder Bird warned me, but I didn't think they would come so soon or I would never have left you. But, thank God, I was in time. Why didn't you show them our baby, they wouldn't have fired the house then?"

"I did, but they thought it was one I borrowed to fool them with. And you knew all the time? And you married me knowing?"

"Yes, and I mean to keep you."

Yes, and I mean to keep you."



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