

Ever and anon, came borne on the tempestuous gale, the wild yells of the savages, as they pursued their work of devastation among the deserted homes of their murdered victims, but as the morning dawned, all sounds were hushed—the storm too, seemed lulled to rest, and once more Manteo stole from the cavern, to reconnoitre the movements of the Indians.

He advanced with cautious steps towards the English settlement, gaining confidence as he approached it, from the unbroken silence that prevailed, and which was soon explained by finding it entirely deserted, and seeing at a distance the canoes of the Indians fast receding from the island. He then went boldly forward, and stepping within the palisades, gazed with sorrow on the scene of desolation there presented to his view. Every dwelling was razed to the ground, and amidst their ruins, lay scattered remnants of the spoil, which the savages had been unable to carry away with them. Manteo looked around, hoping to find some article of food, which should furnish Rachel and her charge with such a repast as they had been accustomed to, and he was so fortunate as to discover a box containing a few biscuit, which had been long carefully hoarded, as one of the few remaining luxuries, brought by their possessor from England. He was also pleased to see a goat browsing on the green herbage, which was one of a number brought out by the Colonists, and had been a great pet with the children. She ran towards him, when he called her, and her full udders furnished him with a rich draught for the little Virginia.

Thus bountifully supplied, the faithful Manteo returned to the cavern, which was now brightened by the beams of the morning sun, streaming through every narrow crevice, and enlivened by the gay laugh, and exquisite beauty of the happy and unconscious child. Their simple meal was soon ended, when Manteo proceeded to inform Rachel, that they must depart for Croatoan that very night, where, protected by his powerful tribe, they might dwell unmolested, even should their escape be hereafter discovered. He further told her, that long since, foreseeing from the menaces of the Indians, the catastrophe which had now exterminated the Colony, he had concealed in the end of a trench, and carefully hidden from view, several chests, left by Mr. Dare in his trust for Virginia, and that as the Indians would not probably return till the morrow, for the remainder of their spoil, he would employ this day in removing them, preparatory to their departure from the island. He accordingly did so, succeeding in his purpose without molestation, and that night, beneath the star-lit canopy of heaven, the lonely fugitives commenced their brief voyage to Croatoan.

The destined post was reached without let or hindrance, and joyously was Manteo welcomed by

the chieftains of his tribe. He had been across the world of waters, and sojourned with that mighty people, who like the Great Spirit spoke in a voice of thunder, and came flying towards their shores, with white wings outspread, like vast sea birds skimming the fathomless deep; and, as he was supposed to have acquired superior wisdom, by his intercourse with this wonderful nation, consequently his influence over his red brethren, was proportionately great.

Rachel, with her jet black hair, her dark flashing eye, and voice, and look of command, seemed of kin to their own race, and won at once, their love and confidence. They believed her to be gifted with supernatural powers, and from her skill in often restoring the sick to health, they imagined her to possess a mysterious influence over life and death. They called her the Raven's Wing, from the dark and glossy hue of her hair, which time had not then streaked with one thread of silver. But for the little Virginia,—she became at once their wonder and their idol. The fairy-like proportions of her form, the delicate hue of her skin, the soft ringlets of her hair, and eyes of heavenly blue, were their delight and admiration. They were never weary of gazing upon her, and the women loved to wreath her little arms and neck with strings of scarlet berries, that resembled coral, and to twine flowers, or sometimes gaudier ornaments, among the clustering ringlets of her silken hair. It was indeed a touching sight to behold this delicate and graceful child, sporting, with heart unconscious of her deprivations, among the tawny children of the forest, or laughing in the naked arms of some gigantic savage, hideous in his wild array of skins and feathers, yet dandling his fragile burden with a woman's tenderness, and smiling with grim delight, upon the angel face, that looked up with such beaming and confiding love to his. As is their custom, they gave her various playful names of endearment, but from the extraordinary and dazzling fairness of her complexion, they loved best to call her the Snow-flake. The king of the country, Okisko, pronounced her worthy to become the wife of his son,—his word was a law to his people, and from that time, the lovely Virginia was looked upon as the destined bride of their prince, Orinka.

In the meantime, through the influence and exertions of Manteo, Rachel and her charge were made as comfortable as circumstances would possibly permit, more so perhaps, than could have been expected, in a situation so singular and forlorn. But having spent two years in England, and lived altogether with the colonists since his return to his own country, Manteo had derived much knowledge from them, and become familiar with the habits, and requirements of civilized life. He accordingly constructed an abode for his proteges, similar to those built by the colonists at Roanoke, dividing the interior into two apartments, which he furnished